



# Public Document Pack

## Cambridge City Council

### Community Services Scrutiny Committee

**Scrutiny Committee Members:** Councillors Kightley (Chair), Kerr (Vice Chair), Al Bander, Blackhurst, Brown, Sanders, Shah, Todd-Jones and Walker  
Alternate: Councillors Newbold and Brierley

**Non-voting co-optees:** Diane Best, Anna Vine-Lott and Brian Haywood  
(Tenant/Leaseholder Reps)

**PCT Representative:** Tom Dutton (Assistant Director of Strategic Planning)

#### **Executive Councillors:**

Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation: Cllr Cantrill

Executive Councillor for Housing (and Deputy Leader): Cllr Smart

Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health: Cllr Bick

**Date:** Thursday, 14 October 2010

**Time:** 1.30 pm

**Venue:** Committee Room 1 & 2 - Guildhall

**Contact:** Glenn Burgess                      **Direct Dial:** 01223 457169

#### **1 Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

#### **2 Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 20)

To approve the minutes of the meeting on 1 July 2010.

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare at this stage any interests that they may have in an item shown on this agenda. If any member of the Committee is unsure whether or not they should declare an interest on a particular matter, they should seek advice from the Head of Legal Services **before** the meeting.

#### **4 Public Questions (See information below)**

## **Items for decision by the Executive Councillor, without debate**

These Items will already have received approval in principle from the Executive Councillor. The Executive Councillor will be asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the officer's report.

There will be no debate on these items, but members of the Scrutiny Committee and members of the public may ask questions or comment on the items if they comply with the Council's rules on Public Speaking set out below.

## **Items for debate by the Committee and then decision by the Executive Councillor**

These items will require the Executive Councillor to make a decision *after* hearing the views of the Scrutiny Committee.

There will be a full debate on these items, and members of the public may ask questions or comment on the items if they comply with the Council's rules on Public Speaking set out below.

## **Decisions of the Executive Councillor for Housing**

### **Items for debate by the Committee and then decision by the Executive Councillor**

#### **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Item 5 contains confidential appendixes, which are deemed to be confidential. If this information is likely to be discussed the Scrutiny Committee is recommended to exclude members of the public from the meeting on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

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|----------|--|-----------------|
| <b>5</b> | <b>Seymour Court Scheme Approval</b>                                   | (Pages 21 - 42) |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Private Sector Leasing (PSL) Procurement</b>                        | (Pages 43 - 46) |
| <b>7</b> | <b>LAA Performance Report 2009/10: Community Wellbeing Partnership</b> | (Pages 47 - 52) |

## **Decisions of the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health**

### **Items for decision by the Executive Councillor, without debate**

#### **8 Appointment to outside body**

The Scrutiny Committee is requested to recommend a change in the appointment to the outside body listed below.

The Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health, will be asked to agree the appointments.

#### **Addenbrooke's Board of Governors (1)**

Nomination: Cllr Swanson

#### **9 Review of Safer City Grants**

(Pages 53 - 68)

### **Items for debate by the Committee and then decision by the Executive Councillor**

#### **10 LAA Performance Report 2009/10: Cambridgeshire Children's Trust board**

(Pages 69 - 76)

#### **11 LAA Performance Report 2009/10: Safer and Stronger Partnership**

(Pages 77 - 86)

## **Decisions of the Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation**

### **Items for decision by the Executive Councillor, without debate**

#### **12 Contracts for the supply of production Services to the Folk Festival in financial years 2011-2013**

(Pages 87 - 90)

### **Items for debate by the Committee and then decision by the Executive Councillor**

#### **13 Proposals for the improvement and enhancement of Cherry Hinton Hall**

(Pages 91 - 200)

- 14 Cambridge Allotments – A Management Policy** (Pages 201 - 214)
- 15 Project Appraisal - Kelsey Kerridge Climbing wall project: Additional funding request** (Pages 215 - 220)
- 16 Project Appraisal - Canoe Club extension: Additional funding request** (Pages 221 - 226)
- 17 Cambridge Corn Exchange Review** (Pages 227 - 232)

## **Information for the public**

The next scheduled meeting of the Scrutiny Committee is on 16 March 2010  
Public attendance: You are welcome to attend this meeting as an observer, although it may be necessary to ask you to leave the room during the discussion of matters which are described as confidential.

Filming, photography and recording is not permitted at council meetings. Any request to do so must be put to the committee manager at least 24 hours before the start time of the relevant meeting.

Public Speaking: You can ask questions on an issue included on either agenda above, or on an issue which is within this committee's powers. Questions can only be asked during the slot on the agenda for this at the beginning of the meeting, not later on when an issue is under discussion by the committee. If you wish to ask a question related to an agenda item contact the committee officer (listed above under 'contact') before the meeting starts. If you wish to ask a question on a matter not included on this agenda, please contact the committee officer by 10.00am the working day before the meeting. Further details concerning the right to speak at committee can be obtained from the committee section.

Emergency Evacuation: In the event of a fire or other emergency you will hear a continuous ringing alarm. You should leave the building by the nearest exit and proceed to the assembly point in St Mary's Passage on the left hand side of Great St Mary's churchyard.

Do not attempt to use the lifts. Do not attempt to re enter the building until given the all clear by a member of the City Council Staff. City Council staff will provide assistance with leaving the building.

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 July 2010  
1.30 - 4.20 pm

### Present:

#### Executive Councillors:

Cllr Cantrill, Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation  
Cllr Bick, Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health  
Cllr Smart, Executive Councillor for Housing

#### Scrutiny Committee Members:

Councillors Kightley (Chair), Kerr (Vice-Chair) Al Bander, Blackhurst, Brown, Sanders, Todd-Jones and Walker

#### Non-voting co-optees:

Diane Best and Brian Haywood  
(*Tenant/Leaseholder Representatives*)

#### Officer Present:

Liz Bissett (Director of Community Services)  
Debbie Kaye (Head of Active Communities)  
Chris Humphris (Principal Accountant)  
Julia Hovells (Finance and Business Manager)  
Jas Lally (Head of Environmental Services)  
Ian Ross (Recreational Services Manager)  
Alistair Wilson (Green Spaces Manager)  
Bob Hadfield (Head of Technical Services)  
Alastair Roberts (Safer Communities Manager)  
Ken Hay (Head of Community Development)  
Jackie Hanson (Operations and Resources Manager)  
Paul Bishop (Children and Young People Service Manager)  
Alan Cater (Head of Strategic Housing)  
Glenn Burgess (Committee Manager)

### FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

#### 10/38/CS Apologies

Apologies were received from Tenant Representative Anna Vine-Lott**Minutes**

A slight correction was made to the minutes of 25 March 2010. Under 'Declaration of Interest' it should have been noted that Councillor Walker was a Governor of St Matthews School. With this minor correction the minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 27 May 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **Declarations of Interest**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Walker		Governor of St Matthews School

### **10/41/CS Public Questions (See information below)**

None

### **10/42/CS Key Decision - 2009/10 Revenue & Capital Outturn, Carry forward requests and significant variances**

**Matter for decision:** The report presented a summary of the 2009/10 outturn position compared to the final budget for the year, the position for revenue and capital and variances and requests to carry forward funding into 2010/11.

#### **Decision of Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation:**

- Agreed the carry forward requests, totaling £112,400 as detailed in Appendix C of the officers report, to be recommended to Council for approval.
- Sought approval from Council to carry forward capital resources to fund re-phased net capital spending of £472,000 from 2009/10 into 2010/11, as detailed in Appendix D of the officers report.

**Reason for the Decision:** This decision was required as part of the Council's budget setting process.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.



**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Principal Accountant introduced the report to members.

In response to a question from Councillor Todd-Jones, it was confirmed that there were a variety of reasons for budget underspends and the resulting carry forward requests. These could include projects not being completed on time, additional public consultation and outside pressures such as ongoing legal negotiations. However it was noted that, whilst there was no formal policy, the Council did take a very prudent approach to carry forward requests.

Councillor Walker asked for further information on the Green Spaces carry forward request of £22,610, and the Head of Active Communities confirmed that this was due to additional income generated through grazing fees.

In response to further questions from Councillor Walker the Director of Community Services confirmed that:

- the under achievement in the Corn Exchange marketing income was as a result of the current economic downturn.
- the carry forward request for the Community Development Area Committee Grant Budgets was due to the activities organised in the Easter period crossing over into the new financial year. This money had now been spent in full.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 6 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/43/CS Non-Key Decision - Cambridge Sport Network 2012 Olympic Action Plan**

**Matter for decision:** To endorse the Cambridge Sport Network 2012 Groups Action Plan and agree the role of Cambridge City Council in the run up to the 2012 Olympics.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation:**

- Endorse the proposed stakeholder action plan and actively promote opportunities for participation as widely as possible
- Approved elements specific to Cambridge City Council

**Reason for the Decision:** To highlight activities and the role of Cambridge City Council and key stakeholders in the run up to the 2012 Olympics.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Head of Active Communities introduced the report to members.

In response to a question from Councillor Sanders, it was confirmed that both primary and secondary schools and further education colleges had programmes in place to help promote and encourage participation in sports in the run up to the 2012 Olympics. It was also confirmed that the Schools Sports Partnership was involved in the Cambridge Sport Network.

Councillor Brown asked about opportunities to further promote tourism during the Olympics and it was confirmed that the City Centre Manager was currently working with County Council colleagues on this issue.

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation highlighted that the City Council was a key supporter of sports in Cambridge – providing both resources and facilities throughout the city. It was felt that the 2012 Olympics would be a good opportunity to celebrate and promote all the good work of the City Council.

Councillor Walker proposed a slight amendment to recommendation 2.1 of the officer's report, to read:

- Endorse the proposed stakeholder action plan *and actively promote opportunities for participation as widely as possible*

Members agreed this amendment.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 votes (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/44/CS Non-Key Decision - Project Appraisal: Works to improve the skatepark at Jesus Green**

**Matter for decision:** Approval of a project to provide a more up to date skate facility on Jesus Green.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation:**

- Recommended the capital scheme (which was not included in the Council's Capital Plan) for approval by Council, subject to resources being available to fund the capital cost associated with the Scheme, and relevant planning permissions are obtained. The total capital cost of the project was estimated to be £65,000, this was to be funded from Informal Open Spaces S106. There were no additional revenue implications arising from the project.
- Added the project to the Capital Plan.

**Reason for the Decision:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Recreational Services Manager introduced the report to members and gave a short powerpoint presentation on the proposed improvements to Jesus Green Skate Park.

In response to a question from Councillor Sanders, it was confirmed that options regarding the coloured surfaces had formed part of the consultation document, and would need to be formally agreed through planning conditions. The Jesus Green Residents Association were keen that any elevated surfaces should be designed to blend in with the surrounding area and this was also being considered.

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation confirmed that further consultation would take place through the planning application process, but felt that this was a good example of stakeholders working together towards a successful end project.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

### **10/45/CS Non-Key Decision - Performance Management Framework for Parks and Open Spaces**

**Matter for decision:** Report on work to date using the Performance Management Framework (PMF), an update on the six previously agreed sites and recommendations for the future use of the PMF.

#### **Decision of Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation:**

- Noted progress to date
- Instructed Officers to continue gathering data for comparison purposes
- Instructed Officers to identify improvements and incorporate them into management plans
- Approved the timescales for the replacement planting of the six previously approved priority sites
- Agreed to engage with stakeholders

**Reason for the Decision:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

#### **Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Green Spaces Manager introduced the report to members.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, it was confirmed that whilst this report gave an update on just six of the sites, further reports and updates would be coming back to this committee.

Councillor Kightley raised concern that the very dry weather conditions may affect the replanting plans, but was reassured that plant selection would be looked at carefully to combat this.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/46/CS Key Decision - Response to Communities and Local Government (CLG) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Consultation 'A Real Future'**

**Matter for decision:** Following the CLG Consultation, 'Reform Council Housing Finance' issued in July 2009, a subsequent detailed consultation paper was issued on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010, entitled 'Council Housing: A Real Future'. The current consultation confirms the intention to move from the current HRA Subsidy regime to a system of self-financing for local authority housing. The Executive Councillor is asked to approve a response after considering views.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Housing:**

- Considered the views of Housing Management Board and Community Services Scrutiny Committee members and tenant / leaseholder representatives.
- Approved the proposed response to the consultation, at Appendix B of the officers report, to be sent to the CLG by 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010, pending final ratification by Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010

**Reason for the Decision:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Finance and Business Manager introduced the report to members.

As Chair of the Housing Management Board, Councillor Blackhurst welcomed the report and the recommended consultation response.

Councillor Walker question whether the situation had changed since the election, and the Finance and Business Manager confirmed that early indications were that the new coalition government recognised that the current system was no longer fit for purpose and recognised the potential benefits of the scheme. Whilst it would depend on the outcomes of the consultation, it seemed that there was general support for change.

The Executive Councillor stated that the new coalition government had indicated that they felt the current system was inadequate but again it would depend on the consultation outcomes.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Housing approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/47/CS Key Decision - 2009/10 Revenue & Capital Outturn, Carry forward requests and significant variances**

**Matter for decision:** The report presented a summary of the 2009/10 outturn position compared to the final budget for the year, the position for revenue and capital and variances and requests to carry forward funding into 2010/11.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Housing:**

- Agreed the carry forward requests, totaling £135,470 as detailed in Appendix C of the officers report, to be recommended to Council for approval.
- Sought approval from Council to re-phase capital expenditure of £96,000 in respect of Management Orders and the Landlord Accreditation Scheme into 2010/11, as detailed in Appendix D of the officers report.
- Sought approval from Council to re-phase capital expenditure of £25,000 in respect of investment in private sector housing grants and loans into 2010/11 and recognised the use of £41,000 more resource in 2010/11 than anticipated, in respect of the Assessment Centre, as detailed in Appendix E of the officers report and the associated notes.
- Sought approval from Council to carry forward capital resources to fund re-phased net capital spending of £1,389,000 between 2009/10 and 2010/11, in relation to investment in the Housing Revenue Account stock, as part of

the Housing Capital Investment Plan, as detailed in Appendix E of the officers report and the associated notes.

- Confirmed inclusion of £500,000 in 2010/11, £815,000 in 2011/12 and £60,000 in 2012/13 in respect of the redevelopment works at Roman Court in the Housing Capital Investment Plan, as approved by Community Services in March 2010.
- Confirmed inclusion of £236,000 in 2010/11, to meet the decant costs of Seymour Court in the Housing Capital Investment Plan, as approved by Community Services in March 2010.

**Reason for the Decision:** This decision was required as part of the Council's budget setting process.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Finance and Business Manager introduced the report to members.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker regarding the Bed and Breakfast budgets, the Head of Strategic Housing confirmed that, as this was needs led, it was very difficult to budget for. A new approach was being trailed by the Housing Options Team in order to offer accommodation *within* the Councils own services, and it was hoped that this would reduce costs and minimise the need to place families outside of Cambridge

In response to a question from Councillor Walker regarding the RSL Partnership Project, the Finance and Business Manager confirmed that this funding had been for specific strategic work. The funding was requested to be carried forward to either resurrect this work in 2010/11 or to allow it to be returned to the RSL contributors.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker regarding Jimmy's Night Shelter, the Finance and Business Manager confirmed that the overspend was as a result of the phasing of the project within each year and did not represent an anticipated overspend in totality.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 6 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor for Housing approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted): None      Exclusion of press and the public**

Before considering the next item the Chair asked that members of the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 1, 2 & 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**Key Decision - ANNUAL REVIEW OF 3-YEAR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME**

**Matter for decision:** A 3-year rolling programme of Housing owned sites, for consideration for development, redevelopment or disposal, was approved by the Executive Councillor for Housing in June 2009. This report provided an annual review of the programme and sought approval of a revised 3-year rolling programme, which includes 9 sites to be investigated in year 2010/11.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Housing:**

- Noted progress of schemes approved for consideration for development, redevelopment or disposal in 2009/10
- Approved the revised 3 Year rolling programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13

**Reason for the Decision:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:** The Head of Strategic Housing introduced the report and answered members questions on the proposed Investigations Programme as included in the confidential appendix to the officers report.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Housing approved the recommendations.



**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted): None Non-Key Decision -Retrospective approval of Project Appraisal for Landlord Accreditation Energy Grant scheme**

**Matter for decision:** East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) invited local authorities to bid for grant funding from the regional Housing Pot to support the Private Sector Renewal, Regeneration and mixed communities programme. In consultation with Executive

Councillor for Housing, a bid was made to provide financial assistance to those private sector landlords who are committed to improving the standard of their properties and are members of the Councils Landlord Accreditation scheme. The bid was successful and the Council received a grant of £50,000 for 2009/10 and £50,000 for 2010/11 from East of England Regional Assembly. Although the project documentation was included in the Council's capital plan, Officers had not gained approval from Asset Management Team and the Executive Councillor for Housing. To address this, Officers have taken a report to Asset Management Team and are now seeking approval from the Executive Councillor for Housing.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Housing:**

- Retrospectively approved the project appraisal for Landlord Accreditation Energy Grant Scheme, which was included in the Council's Capital Plan

**Reason for the Decision:**

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Head of Environmental Services introduced the report to members.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, it was confirmed that the scheme was being promoted to all landlords.

The Executive Councillor for Housing did however acknowledge the difficulty of promoting the scheme as landlords were required to cover the initial costs, whilst it was their tenants that received the benefits.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Housing approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/51/CS Key Decision - 2009/10 Revenue & Capital Outturn, Carry forward requests and significant variances**

**Matter for decision:** The report presented a summary of the 2009/10 outturn position compared to the final budget for the year, the position for revenue and capital and variances and requests to carry forward funding into 2010/11.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health:**

- Considered the variances reported as detailed in Appendix B of the officers report subject to the final outturn position.
- Agree forward requests, totaling £ 37,110 as detailed in Appendix C, of the officers report, be recommended to Council for approval.
- Sought approval from Council to rephase net capital spending of £237,000 from 2009/10 into 2010/11 as detailed in Appendix D of the officers report.

**Reason for the Decision:** This decision was required as part of the Council's budget setting process.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Principal Accountant introduced the report to members.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, the Head of Community Development confirmed that the underspend in the Community Centres budget was as a result of an overachievement in income for the last quarter at the Meadows Community Centre and Buchan St in particular.

Councillor Walker also asked for further information on the Green Spaces carry forward request of £22,610, and the Head of Active Communities highlighted a number of contributory factors and agreed to provide more detail in writing.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, the Head of Technical Services confirmed that the cremation income was significantly lower than budgeted partly due to increased competition in the local area. This would be taken into account when budgeting for future years.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 6 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

#### **10/52/CS Key Decision - Mercury abatement Contract payments**

**Matter for decision:** In 2005 a decision was taken for the crematorium run by the Council to seek to reduce mercury omissions, and therefore to install plant that would achieve this. A constitutional waiver would be required in order to make advance contractual payments for the equipment.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health:**

- Sought permission via Full Council to allow a constitutional waiver in that, officers be allowed to make advance contractual payments as outlined in the officers report at 3.7.1, so as to ensure that the project procurement process may proceed and the project completed within required timescales.

**Reason for the Decision:** By 2012 all councils would be required either to reduce mercury emissions from crematoria by 50%, or to pay into a national penalty scheme of abatement credits, which would operate like carbon offsetting.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Head of Technical Services introduced the report to members.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, it was confirmed that services would be maintained throughout the installation of the new equipment.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/53/CS Non-Key Decision - Operational Guidance s. 30 Dispersal Orders.**

**Matter for decision:** The report sets out the Operational Guidance on the use of Dispersal Powers by Cambridgeshire Constabulary in the City of Cambridge under sections 30 – 36 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (more commonly referred to as "section 30").

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health:**

- Noted the content of the report and the Operational Guidance attached to the officer's report.
- Noted the process for considering applications from the police and, in particular, where it was necessary for the local authority to decide quickly whether or not it would grant consent. This "fast track" process was shown graphically in the flowchart on page 14 of the officers report.
- Requested that a further report on the operation of the fast track mechanism be brought back to this committee in twelve months time.

**Reason for the Decision:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Safer Communities Manager introduced the item to members.

Councillor Walker welcomed the officer's report and highlighted the need to publicise the revised S30 process to the public.

Councillor Brown echoed these points, and highlighted that local residents had become frustrated with the current process. She sought clarity on what police action would come out of a report of anti-social behaviour.

In response, Inspector Kerridge highlighted the need for the public to report all incidents of anti-social behaviour. This should be done via the 0345 number and all individual cases would then be investigated, with the data used to inform the S30 process.

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health highlighted that, from 2 July, there would be no S30 Dispersal Orders in the City and this was down to the good work of the police and other agencies. He welcomed the clearer process proposed in the officers report.

In response to a request from Councillor Walker for a further report on the success of DPPO's in other cities, the Executive Councillor felt that the priority should be to look at root causes and prevention measures. A further report on these issues would be brought to a future West/Central Area Committee and it was agreed that this would be shared with all members.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/54/CS Non-Key Item - New Town Capital Grant Programme**

**Matter for decision:** To provide funding and grant aid for capital projects that would improve community provision, services and development for residents living in the New Town area of the city.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health:**

- Noted the progress and achievements to date of the New Town Capital Grant Programme.
- Included a bid of £125,000 to be considered in the Medium Term Strategy process to extend the programme to 2013 in accordance with the remit.

**Reason for the Decision:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:** The Head of Community Development introduced the report to members.

Councillor Blackhurst welcomed the report and highlighted the benefits of local communities working together to identify funding priorities.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker regarding the proposed community room, the Head of Community Development confirmed that space had been allocated on the Cambridge University Press site and it was hoped that this could be integrated with the New Town area.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/55/CS Non-Key Decision Big Lottery / Urban Adventure Play Project Appraisal**

**Matter for decision:** The report accompanied the retrospective appraisals for the Urban Adventure Play Base at Cherry Hinton Hall and Bramblefields Play Installation, for additional S106 funding to be released to cover the cost of MCA certification for the ChYpPS Community Play Boat and a separate project appraisal for the Play Trails at Cherry Hinton Hall.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health:**

- Approved the Big Lottery Urban Adventure Play Portfolio Project Appraisal
- Approved the Big Lottery Play Trails Project Appraisal
- Approved an additional £35k from section 106 resources from Community Development to enable the ChYpPS Community Play boat to comply with MCA certification requirements

**Reason for the Decision:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:**

The Children and Young Peoples Service Manager introduced the report to members.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

**10/56/CS Non-Key Decision - Funding for the Cambridge Refugee and Migrant Support Service**

**Matter for decision:** To provide funding on a month-by-month basis for the Cambridge Refugee and Migrant Support Service.

**Decision of Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health:**

- To fund the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum to host and run the Cambridge Refugee and Migrant Support Service on a month by month basis until a maximum period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, at a cost of £1,900 a month.

**Reason for the Decision:** The Cambridge Refugee and Migrant Support Service was only funded up to the end of June 2010 by the Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership through a LPSA reward grant in recognition of the important contribution this service makes to economic migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the City.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected:** As set out in the officer's report.

**Scrutiny Considerations:** The Operations and Resources Manager introduced the report to members.

Councillor Walker questioned whether officers were confident that the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) had the human resources to continue with the project. In response the Operations and Resources Manager confirmed an extensive review had been undertaken over the last year and it was felt that CECF were very well placed to continue the service. It was also noted that CECF worked closely with other agencies to bring in specialist advice and, as the funding was proposed on a month-by-month basis, the Council would continue to monitor its progress.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 8 votes to 0 (unanimously)

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health approved the recommendations.

**Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):** None

The meeting ended at 4.20 pm



**CHAIR**

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To: Executive Councillor for Housing  
Report by: Director of Customer and Community Services  
Relevant scrutiny committee: COMMUNITY SERVICES 14/10/10  
Wards affected: Romsey

## **SEYMOUR COURT SCHEME APPROVAL Key Decision**

**NOTE – Appendices NOT FOR PUBLICATION: These relate to items during which the public is likely to be excluded from the meeting by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.**

### **1. Executive summary**

The report is about how Seymour Court could be redeveloped with new Affordable Housing being retained by the Council and managed by City Homes. In order to do this in a way that is viable for the Council, a mixed tenure scheme would need to be agreed with a house-builder/developer partner and an appropriate disposal of land or flats to the partner agency will need to be approved.

A special meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee is proposed to be held in November to approve a final scheme for the redevelopment of Seymour Court. The report also requests that the Director be given delegated authority in respect of the procurement process.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- To approve the redevelopment of Seymour Court as a mixed tenure development with the Affordable Housing to be retained by the Council and managed by City Homes, noting the comments of the Housing Management Board held on 28 September 2010.

- To only pursue the current approval to sell Seymour Court to a housing association under a long lease, if a mixed tenure development with the Affordable Housing to be retained by the Council and managed by City Homes is not financial viable.
- To approve that delegated authority be given to the Director of Customer and Community Services following consultation with the Director of Resources and the Head of Legal Services to sign a Development Agreement with a single house-builder/developer partner in respect of a scheme to redevelop Seymour Court. That this approval is subject to the approval of a scheme at a special meeting of the Community Services Committee in November 2010.

### **3. Background**

#### **Seymour Court as part of the Sheltered Housing Modernisation Programme**

At the Community Services Committee on the 17 November 2005 the Executive Councillor for Housing & Health approved the sale of Seymour Court under a long lease to a housing association for redevelopment for Affordable Housing. This decision was made as part of the Council's overall programme to modernise its sheltered housing. The longstanding aim has been to find alternative accommodation for tenants of Seymour Court by the end December 2010 (this process is well underway) in order to sell the land for Seymour Court by the end of March 2011.

At the time, the redevelopment of Seymour Court by a housing association was the only viable option to deliver new Affordable Housing. Over the last eighteen months, the financial environment within which Council's operate has begun to change to allow serious consideration to the redevelopment of Seymour Court with new Affordable Housing being retained by the Council and managed by City Homes.

Approval is currently being sought through the September and October Committee cycle from Housing Management Board and the Community Services Scrutiny Committee to pursue the redevelopment of Seymour Court with new Affordable Housing being retained by the Council and managed by City Homes as the preferred option.

## **Recent Changes and the Affordable Housing Development Partnership**

At the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 25 March 2010 the Executive Councillor for Housing approved that an Affordable Housing Development Partnership be set up to provide new Affordable Housing on Council owned sites.

As part of this process it was approved that, in the event of changes to the financial environment, delegated authority be given to the Director of Community Services following consultation with the Director of Finance and the Head of Legal Services to complete a procurement process to select and appoint two developer/house-builder partners to join the Affordable Housing Development Partnership to progress new Council house-building (subsequent procurement law advice has steered officers towards selecting one partner not two). Approval was also given to procure the services of a professional property consultant to assist with the assessment of the financial viability of schemes. Further, it was noted that should the financial environment change (including further capital grant becoming available), schemes for new Council house building on Council owned sites will be brought back to Committee for scheme specific approval.

The March 2010 Committee Report indicated that it was a possibility the Council may be able to bid for further grant from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to deliver more schemes itself, but at that time it was not certain that there would be the opportunity. To ensure the Council is best placed to bid for grant however, officers set up a tender process to select a preferred developer/house-builder with which to work up a scheme at Seymour Court. The tender evaluation process was completed on 2 September and a single preferred partner has been selected.

At the beginning of August 2010 the HCA announced that there would be a bidding round for grant (the first and probably only round in 2010/11) and that a bid from the Council in respect of Seymour Court would be considered. The deadline for bids was 31 August with decision expected by the end of September. Therefore officers needed to move quickly and an indicative bid was submitted but can be changed or withdrawn subject to Committee scrutiny and approval. Due to the grant funding changes outlined above there is this opportunity for the Council not to transfer the Seymour Court land to a housing association but to re-develop the site with our developer/house-builder partner and for the Affordable Housing to be retained and managed by City Homes.

To bid for grant a Baseline Scheme was established and its viability assessed by our professional property consultant, Cyril Sweett. In order to achieve a financially viable scheme for the Council that was competitive to secure HCA grant, the Baseline Scheme needs an element of market housing to cross-subsidise the Affordable Housing

In summary the Baseline Scheme is as follows

## **Scheme Mix**

### **Affordable Housing**

2 No 1 bed apartments  
19 No 2 bed apartments

### **Market Housing**

9 No 2 bed apartments

- The Affordable Housing to be for people aged 55 and over
- 2 of the 2 bed Affordable Housing units to be fully wheelchair accessible, the remainder to meet Lifetime Homes Standard
- All units to meet Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Housing
- The Market Housing would be built and sold at the developer/house-builder partners risk. The Council would not be able to buy any of the Market Housing back at any stage if they did not meet our standards.

Appendix 1 shows how the Baseline Scheme would be funded including the bid for grant.

Through the tender process our selected partner has indicated that significant improvements can be made to the Baseline Scheme to a point where, should it be possible to increase the number of market housing, much less HCA grant or City Council capital investment would be required to deliver the same number of Affordable Housing. Alternatively, more Affordable Housing may be achievable for less HCA grant and City Council capital investment. Appendix 2 provides a comparison of the viability of the Baseline Scheme with two other scenarios that either improve the viability of the scheme for the Council and/or increase the numbers of Affordable Housing. The figures in Appendix 2 should be treated with caution as they are still to be validated by officers and Cyril Sweett, but are provided for illustrative purposes.

The Baseline Scheme at the grant level bid for is at the limit of what would be considered viable for the Council in terms of established financial measures. Further details are provided in Appendix 1. In terms of 'value for money' the grant per unit and cost per unit of the Affordable Housing are comparable with housing association scheme costs. These financial indicators need to be considered alongside the value of maintaining City Homes stock at sufficient levels to ensure enable the continuing delivery of and efficient housing service.

Negotiations with the partner house-builder/developer are progressing to agree a final scheme that is satisfactory to the Housing Service and is financially viable to for the Council. Planning approval will be required and an appropriate level of grant may be required to make the scheme viable. The complexity of the scheme and the timing of negotiations will mean that a special Community Services Scrutiny Committee will be required in November to approve a final scheme.

Appendix 3 provides a more detailed summary of the scheme using the Council's standard project appraisal format.

Appendix 4 is a summary of the key milestones of the Project to achieve a Start on Site by the end of March 2011.

### **Key Points on the Proposed Disposal of Land**

The final scheme currently being negotiated with the house-builder/developer partner will potentially involve either the disposal of freehold plots where Market Housing is proposed and/or disposal under long leases where Market Apartments are involved. The Council will retain the freehold of land upon which the Affordable Housing is provided and the freehold of land should Market Apartments be provided.

The Council is not committed to working with our preferred partner unless they are able to deliver the Baseline Scheme summarised above, or an improved scheme, and conditional on other requirements that it is the intention to control and procure by way of a Development Agreement and a standard form of JCT Design and Build contract to cover the building works. Full draft agreements have been produced with internal legal advice together with external legal input and advice from Cyril Sweett.

In summary, the key points of the draft Development Agreement are as follows;

- The contractual arrangements with the house-builder/developer are conditional on the achievement of a satisfactory planning permission.
- They are also conditional on the Council confirming it has secured sufficient funding for the Project.
- The Council must approve a scheme prior to the house-builder/developer submitting a planning application.
- The house-builder/developer must submit a planning application 20 working days after exchanging the Development Agreement.
- The cost to the Council is capped at 10% above a cost of a final scheme agreed with the house-builder/developer to allow for any onerous conditions that may be applied through the planning process (this is within the limits allowed by the Council's Contract Procedure Rules).
- Once a satisfactory planning permission is achieved (and subject to funding being in place), the building contract must be completed within 10 working days.
- Any subsequent completion of leases of land or flats to the house-builder/developer will take place 20 working days following Practical Completion as defined in the build contract.

#### **4. Background papers**

None

#### **5. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Scheme Finance

Appendix 2: Financial Appraisal Information

Appendix 3: Project Appraisal and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Report

Appendix 4: Project Key Milestones

#### **6. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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To: Executive Councillor for Housing  
Report by: Director of Customer and Community Services  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
Wards affected: All Wards

## **Private Sector Leasing (PSL) Scheme Key Decision**

### **1. Executive summary**

1.1 The Council has been commissioning a private sector leasing scheme via a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partner since the early 1990s. The primary function of the PSL scheme has been to help the Council discharge its duty to provide homeless households with temporary accommodation under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (sections 188 and 193). The Council is now required by its Contract Procedure Rules to put this service out to tender. If a contract is subsequently entered into, the Council wishes to switch the primary focus of the service to provide accommodation to prevent, rather than respond to homelessness. Members are asked to support the proposal in this report and accept the officer recommendation that it offers the best value-for-money option for the Council.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

2.1 To authorise officers to enter into a contract with a PSL provider in 2011, subject to a tender process, for a period of five years with an option to extend the contract for a further two years

### **3. Background**

3.1 Since the early 1990s the Council has formed a partnership with King Street Housing Society (KSHS) to provide leased properties in the private rented sector.

3.2 The properties provided under this PSL scheme have enabled private landlords in Cambridge and its surrounds to lease properties to KSHS for an agreed period of time (usually several years) for an agreed fee

based on KSHS taking on the management and maintenance of the property, depending on the lease agreement.

- 3.3 The Council then has the opportunity to nominate households to occupy the property in order to discharge its duty to provide homeless households with temporary accommodation under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (sections 188 and 193).
- 3.4 The Council has used the PSL scheme to augment its own temporary housing stock.
- 3.5 In recent years the Government Department now known as Communities and Local Government (CLG) has set a target of a 50% reduction in the use of temporary accommodation for homeless households, to be achieved by December 2010.
- 3.6 When the target was set in January 2005 the baseline figure for households in temporary accommodation in Cambridge was 140.
- 3.7 While the figures do fluctuate, at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 the Council had exactly 70 households in temporary accommodation and much of this reduction has been delivered by increased efficiency in turnover of households into permanent accommodation.
- 3.8 Over the last few years the Council has significantly reduced its PSL portfolio with KSHS. This is partly due to the need to meet the temporary accommodation target, but also in preparation for the requirement to re-tender the service. The Council now only has 4 PSL properties with KSHS.
- 3.9 In preparation for a PSL procurement a small piece of research on local authority approaches to PSL schemes was completed and the results of the findings have influenced this report and are cited as a background paper
- 3.10 From this piece of work officers have concluded that we should aim to procure a PSL scheme, or similar, at zero cost to the local authority – it is clear that schemes of this nature do exist elsewhere and that providers can recover costs through the rents alone without seeking additional funds from the local authority.
- 3.11 Given the ongoing need to meet and potentially exceed the temporary accommodation target, the Council is primarily looking to use PSL properties to prevent homelessness and reduce the pressure on the Council in terms of homeless applications and demand for temporary accommodation.

- 3.12 The development of an Assessment Centre for rough sleepers in Cambridge with a limited stay means that the Council is also looking to assist voluntary agencies providing homelessness accommodation services in the City to extend the range of move on options for service users – the PSL scheme may also provide additional options here.
- 3.13 The Council's Strategic Procurement Adviser has assessed this venture as a 'relevant contract' under clause 3.1 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules because, although it is being sought at zero cost to the local authority, it has a 'money's worth' value to the provider and, therefore, should be exposed to a competitive process.

#### **4. Implications**

- 4.1 In recommending a long-term contract for the PSL scheme officers would ask Members to consider the following:
- a) If a successful tender process takes place the service will be contracted at zero cost to the local authority
  - b) There are practical difficulties in building up a large portfolio of properties in a short period of time – the Council is looking for a minimum portfolio of at least 100 properties and this could take up to 3 years to deliver. Therefore, there will be a requirement for contracts to overlap to allow for a sufficient supply of properties and to allow providers to wind down existing leasing arrangements with landlords in the event of a change of contractor.
- 4.2 In assessing the 'money's worth' value of a seven year contract a calculation has been made based on the number of properties that may be provided per annum, the range of sizes of property required by the Council and the rent the provider would charge the tenant.
- 4.3 On the basis of the above the annual turnover (not profit) for a provider is calculated to be in the region of £232,750, which translates to a total contract value of £1,629,250.
- 4.4 There are no discernable risks to the Council in entering into a contract of this nature but the supply of properties may be at risk if the Government chose to introduce a formal link between RSL rents and the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates in Cambridge. The contract will provide for some flexibility on property locations to mitigate against this risk.

## **5. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Private Sector Leasing – Evaluating the way forward for Cambridge

## **6. Appendices**

None

## **7. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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To: Community Services Scrutiny Committee  
Report by: Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health – Cllr. Tim Bick and the Executive Councillor for Housing – Cllr Catherine Smart  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee  
Wards affected: All Wards

## **Draft: LAA Performance Report 2009/10 - COMMUNITY WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP**

### **Not a Key Decision**

#### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The City Council is a key partner in Cambridgeshire Together. This partnership had overall responsibility for negotiating the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Cambridgeshire and is overseeing its delivery.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire Together has delegated responsibility for delivery of targets within the LAA to 6 thematic strategic partnerships. The Leader sits on Cambridgeshire Together and an Executive Councillor from the City Council sits on each of the thematic strategic partnerships.
- 1.3 It was agreed that they should present an annual report on performance against their partnership's LAA targets to the relevant City Council Scrutiny Committee. This paper relates to the LAA targets delegated to the Community Wellbeing Partnership under the theme of Equality and Inclusion. The Executive Councillor for Housing represents the City Council on this partnership. The member function in the Supporting People Partnership has recently transferred to the Community Wellbeing Partnership and the lead for the Council for this area is the Executive Councillor for Housing.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the 2009/10 year-end performance against the LAA indicators that have been assigned to the Community Wellbeing Partnership.
- 2.2 Advise the Executive Councillors of any issues or suggestions for further action that the partnership should consider to improve performance against the indicators.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 An approach to our involvement in, and reporting on, county-wide thematic strategic partnerships was agreed by the Leader at Strategy and Resources scrutiny committee on 19 January 2009. Executive Councillors, nominated by the Council, now sit on the Cambridgeshire Together Board alongside other key public service stakeholders in the county and are involved in each of its six thematic strategic partnerships.
- 3.2 It was agreed that they should present an annual report on performance against their partnership's LAA targets to the relevant City Council Scrutiny Committee. This paper relates to the LAA targets 'owned' by the Community Wellbeing Partnership under the theme of Equality and Inclusion.

## **4. Introduction to the Community Wellbeing Partnership**

- 4.1 Councillor Catherine Smart (Supporting People) and Councillor Tim Bick represent the City Council on this partnership.
- 4.2 The Community Wellbeing Partnership is one of the two Thematic Strategic Partnerships that support the Cambridgeshire Together Vision theme of 'Equality and Inclusion'. The other Partnership supporting this theme is Cambridgeshire Children's Trust.
- 4.3 The overarching purpose of the Community Wellbeing Partnership (CWP) is to ensure that different local agencies work together effectively to improve the health and wellbeing of Cambridgeshire residents and to improve outcomes for adults with health and care needs. This incorporates preventive services, support for independent living, and provision of health and social care.

- 4.4 Since the previous report of some of the underlying partnerships supporting the CWP have been modified. The Health and Wellbeing Officer Group and the Adult Care Transformation Group have now merged and the Supporting People Partnership has become a Supporting People Officer Commissioning Group, with the Member function has passing to the CWP.
- 4.5 The CWP links directly with local Improving Health Partnerships and other sub-groups, allowing alignment of district and county level initiatives. The CWP also has links with a number of county-wide groups including the Older People's Partnership Board, other Adult Care Partnership Boards, the Adult Safeguarding Board, the Tobacco Control Alliance, the Obesity Strategy Group and the county-wide Homelessness Executive.
- 4.6 During the past year the CWP has focussed on the following areas:
- 'Shaping Our Future – A Framework for Action: Transforming Adult Social Care in Cambridgeshire through Personalisation'.
  - The Supporting People Impact Assessment and the revised Supporting People Strategy have both been discussed at the CWP and the importance of building Supporting People into a wide range of relevant strategies and work streams has been emphasised.
  - The CWP is the lead Partnership for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
  - The CWP is the lead partnership for the Cambridgeshire Strategy and Action Framework to Tackle Health Inequalities and it will monitor ongoing implementation of the Strategy and Action Framework, against an agreed set of metrics.
  - The CWP has overseen performance monitoring of the following LAA targets:
    - NI 56 Reducing childhood obesity (year 6)
    - NI 70 Hospital admissions for children/young people for intentional and non-intentional injuries
    - NI 120 All age all cause mortality in the 20% most deprived areas of Cambridgeshire
    - NI 123 Age 16+ smoking prevalence (smoking quitters)
    - NI 125 Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation and intermediate care
    - NI 131 Delayed transfers of care from hospital
    - NI 135 Carers receiving needs assessment, review or other services
    - NI136 People support to live independently through social services
    - NI 141 Numbers of vulnerable people achieving independent living

## 5.0 Performance against LAA targets

5.1 Overall the majority of performance indicators in this area were thought to be on target. The following LAA indicator, overseen by this partnership, had missed its target at the end of the second year.

NI	Description	Baseline	Current Performance	Target 2009/10
NI 131	<b>Equality &amp; Inclusion</b> Delayed transfers of care from hospitals	43 per 100,000	14.9 per 100,000	9.5 per 100,000

5.2 The recent dip in performance for the **transfer of care from hospitals** in Cambridgeshire seems to have arisen as a result of problems in intermediate care settings and the sourcing of domiciliary care from independent service providers in the southern part of the county rather than the City. This indicator is felt to be at risk of not improving the end of the LAA.

5.3 The LAA target for **smoking cessation** is also felt to be at risk of not being achieved by the end of the LAA, as performance is below the trajectory expected. 692 people quit smoking in the City during 2008/09 against a target of 879 people. Actions to bring about improvement have been put in place with assistance from the National Support Team (NST) for Smoking Cessation and Tobacco Control. Support is also being given to CAMQUIT to maintain improvements.

5.4 Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership, when it considered the issue in November 2009, encouraged partners to promote CAMQUIT services to their employers and the City Council has circulated notices from CAMQUIT with each payslip.

## 6.0 Local issues affecting performance of LAA targets

6.1 The actions from the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Improving Health Plan have been incorporated into a number of strategies throughout the Council including the Sport Strategy and Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

6.2 Funding for a Health Improvement Officer has been awarded, unfortunately this post has not been filled. Officers have been working in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University Public Health Department to appoint a Public Health Post Graduate (associate) to carry out some project work, which will contribute to these LLA targets. Projects will include working with CAMQUIT to train all frontline staff to level 1



training and developing a monitoring system to evaluate the number of referrals that have been made due to the intervention of the Council's frontline staff. At present this project has been suspended because Reward Grant is no longer available.

- 6.3 Environmental Health Officers have received the training for brief interventions from CAMQUIT. During their inspections of businesses they have been promoting the service. Currently Officers have not had feedback from CAMQUIT to see how many referrals were due to their intervention.
- 6.4 Officers are part of the tobacco control alliance, the locality obesity group, and the health trainer programme, where they contribute to a number of other projects, which affect LLA performance.
- 6.5 Designated sports development officers contribute to the local and county obesity groups, deliver weight management interventions primarily via the City's exercise referral schemes, work in partnership with Cambridge School Sports Partnership to deliver weight management programmes to children and young people and contribute to the delivery of the Community Health Improvement programme (CHIP), as co-ordinated by NHS Cambridgeshire
- 6.6 Officers have been part of the commissioning board who developed the Safer Homes Scheme and Handy Person Scheme to contribute to older people being able to live in their own home independently.
- 6.7 The Supporting People Commissioning Body is the partnership group responsible for decisions around the commissioning of Supporting People funded housing related support services in Cambridgeshire, commissioning a range of services that support vulnerable people to achieve independent living. Supporting People in Cambridgeshire is in the process of shifting the emphasis from residential based services, to providing more floating support services in the wider community. Significant financial pressures mean that some difficult decisions will need to be made on where to target resources to meet required outcomes. This includes the need to review the cost of administering the service following the removal a separate central government grant to cover these costs.

## **7. Implications**

- 7.1 The LAA sets out shared priorities and agreed targets for partners across the County, including Cambridge City Council. Failure to meet these targets will have an impact on the quality of life of County residents.

## **Financial**

7.2 Failure to meet all the LAA targets at the end of the 3 year period (2008/09 – 2010/11) will reduce the amount of grant awarded to Cambridgeshire Together, assuming this is allocated.

## **Staff**

7.3 A considerable number of City Council staff from all departments are working with partners to deliver the LAA.

## **Equal Opportunities**

7.4 Equality and Inclusion is a key strand of the LAA

## **Community Safety**

7.5 Safer and Stronger Communities is a key strand of the LAA

## **8. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Cambridgeshire Area Self Assessment – May 2010  
Local Area Agreement, Year End Performance Report - May 2010  
Proposals for a New Model of Partnership Working – May 2010  
Cambridge LSP, Performance Management Report – January 2010

## **9. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name:

Author's Phone Number:

Author's Email:



To: Councillor Tim Bick, Executive Councillor for  
Community Development and Health

Report by: Liz Bisset, The Director of Customer and  
Community Services

Relevant scrutiny  
committee: Community Services Scrutiny 14 October  
2010

Wards affected: All Wards

## **Review of Safer City Grants Not a key decision**

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The Safer City grant programme is in its fifteenth year and was set up to reduce crime and the fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour. For most of that time the grant pot was made up of the equivalent of £37,000 revenue and £50,000 capital for each financial year. The capital element of the grant was usually agreed for periods of three years at a time. The revenue element formed part of the base community safety budget.
- 1.2 The current capital programme for Safer City grants finished in March 2010. It was agreed at Strategy and Resources Committee in January 2010 and July 2010 that unspent funding totalling £22,000 from 2009/10 could be carried forward into 2010/11 and form the grant pot for that year. It was also agreed that a bid for further capital funding for 2011/12 be prepared with a view to inclusion in the Medium Term Strategy or budget process for 2011/12.
- 1.3 In view of the current government cuts and the general review of all City Council grant pots, both revenue and capital grants have been reviewed for the period 2007/2010. The outcomes are reported here to assist in making a decision about the future of the Safer City grant programme.
- 1.4 The report provides an overview of the applications for revenue and capital 2007/2010 and their outcomes and project details are attached at Appendix A.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To support the continuation of the Safer City Grants programme in both capital and revenue.
- 2.2 To continue to fund both Safer City capital and revenue grant programmes, but at a reduced level of £12,000 for capital and £24,000 per annum for revenue ( which was the actual revenue spend for last year).

## **3. Background**

3.1 The Safer City Grant programme is in its fifteenth year, the grants were set up to reduce crime and the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

3.2 The primary purpose of Safer City grants is to support small scale community projects up to £5,000. Customers are discouraged from applying for grants greater than £5,000 but if they do the application is considered by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee at the usual committee cycle. Applications up to £5,000 are considered on a monthly basis by the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health.

3.3 The current capital programme for Safer City grants finished in March 2010. It was agreed at Strategy and Resources Committee in January 2010 that unspent funding for 2009/10 could be carried forward to 2010/11 and that a bid for further capital funding for 2011/12 be prepared with a view to inclusion in the Medium Term Strategy.

3.4 In view of the current government cuts and the general review of all City Council grant pots, both revenue and capital grants have been reviewed for the 3 year period 2007/2010. The outcomes are reported here to assist in making a decision about the future of the Safer City grant programme.

3.5 Usually the Safer City Fund has £37,000 for revenue grants and £50,000 for capital grants, the capital element was reduced to £12,000 for 2010 (£22,000 including carry forward of commitments) as applications for capital grants had fallen off. The table below shows the budget and actual spend for the three years under review.

	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010 to date</b>
<b>Capital</b>				
Budget	£50k + £25k c/o*	£50k + £42k c/o*	£38k	£12k + £10k c/o*
Actual Spend	£33.4k	£61.1k	£27k	£15k committed to date
<b>Revenue</b>				
Budget	£36.8k	£31.4k	£36.7k	£37.1k
Actual Spend	£36.6k	£31.0k	£24.3k	£19.1k to date

\*It is often necessary to request carry over for capital projects, especially those that have been approved towards the end of the financial year as they often take longer to complete than revenue projects.

3.6 The details of all approved and rejected grants can be found at Appendix A. In summary the grants funded included projects tackling, youth related anti-social behaviour, hate crime, domestic abuse, cycle crime, alcohol and drug related crime and issues affecting older people. Capital projects tackled environmental improvements including better lighting, CCTV and repairs to fencing.

3.7 The criteria for granting applications is set out on the City Council website and states that the project should be community based with evidence supplied for the need of the project. The aims should be defined and the cost realistic. The project should also fall within the priorities of the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership. Monitoring and evaluation should have been considered. Officers from the Community Safety Team advise applicants on how to demonstrate that the project is meeting the criteria.

3.8 There were 83 applications in the period with 19 of these being rejected. We have received 35 evaluations so far and 11 are pending as applicants have 6 months after the completion of the project to submit an evaluation. The remaining projects were not evaluated mainly due to changes in project management personnel. A lot of the evaluations are not of a high quality, mainly due to lack of experience in evaluating on the part of the project managers. We have run training sessions in the past on making applications and evaluating projects but although the sessions were reasonably well attended they did not improve the evaluations received.

3.9 19 applications were rejected during the review period because they did not meet the criteria for approval for the following reasons:

- The project would be duplicating work already being done by City Council or partnership organisations
- There was insufficient funds to approve all grants submitted and projects are considered on merit.
- There was no evidence to support the need for the project
- The application was made by an individual or profit making organisation
- The application sought running costs for an existing project
- The project was not realistically costed
- The project had not got the agreement of all residents to go ahead, e.g. where the intention was to gate a privately owned alleyway
- The project was not aimed at reducing crime and disorder and/or anti-social behaviour
- The project was considered to be part of the core business of an organisation

Where applications are rejected the applicants are given the reason for the rejection.

3.10 The Cambridge Community Safety Partnership has been successful in reducing crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour in the past three years, with crime overall down by 11.3% and criminal damage offences down by 19.6% in 2009/10. Safer City projects are very much part of the actions to achieve this. The projects often tackle the areas of more local concern and areas where Safer and Stronger Community funding would not be granted due to the difficulty of linking outcomes to hard crime reduction targets and National Indicator outcomes.

The kind of outcomes that we have had from Safer City Grants are:

Reduction in fear and positive perceptions around the reduction of anti-social behaviour, including anti-social driving

Reduction in cycle crime although the projects funded were aligned to a bigger campaign run by the police.

Reported changes in the attitude of young people to anti-social behaviour and its effects on others and more positive approaches to community cohesion

Arrests due to the implementation of CCTV.

Significant participation of children and young people in diversionary activities particularly sporting activities.

The outcomes of the projects tend to be more anecdotal and are difficult to tie to hard crime reduction targets, as they often refer to very small geographical areas or intense 1-1 work with small groups. The evaluations suggest that the projects have been successful in reducing the fear of crime and in changing perceptions of crime in local areas, particularly with regard to environmental improvements. They have also been successful in providing diversionary activities to young people who may otherwise have been involved in crime or anti-social behaviour, although how significant the prevention aspect was, is impossible to quantify.

Discussion with City Council Officers and police colleagues suggest that capital applications have fallen off due to lack of staffing resource to help community groups in managing the projects. In the past, Police Community Support Officers, Housing Officers and Community Development Officers often helped community groups to make applications and supported them in the ongoing management and evaluation of the project, this has not been happening to the same extent recently. For the reasons given it is recommended that the Safer City Grants programme be continued but at reduced levels of funding to reflect recent reductions in applications, namely, £12,000 capital and £24,000 revenue.

#### **4. Implications**

**Financial Implications** – The financial implications of approving the continuation of funding for the Safer City Capital and Revenue Programmes for a further 3 years from 2011/12, assuming the level of funding as recommended, would be a base budget revenue saving of approximately £13,000 per annum and a capital bid of £12,000 per annum. If the Safer City grant programme is not supported from 2011/12 this source of funding for local community safety projects will no longer be available. If approved by Strategy & Resources, the financial implications will be picked up as part of the 2011/12 budget process, with funding approval sought as part of the budget setting report in February 2011.

**Staffing Implications** – None

**Equal Opportunities Implications** – If the Safer City programme is cancelled it could mean that some sections of the community do not have any other access to funds to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in their area.

**Procurement Implications** - None

Environmental Implications – None

Community Safety Implications – This scheme helps the council fulfil its responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

## **5. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:  
Future Capital funding for Safer City Grant Scheme – report to Strategy and Resources Committee – 18/01/2010  
Safer City Applications 2007 to 2010  
Safer City Grant Evaluations 2007 to 2010  
Safer City guidelines – can be viewed by visiting:  
<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/content/community-and-living/community-safety/safer-city-grants.en>

## **6. Appendices**

Appendix A – Safer City grant scheme: Summary of applications (2007 to 2010)

## **7. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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Safer City grant scheme: Applications (2007 to 2010)

Appendix A

Year	Project	Aim of Project	Approved / Rejected (with reason)	Capital	Revenue	Evaluated?
2007-2008	Street Games 2007	Engage young people in sport and divert them from involvement in ASB. It is intended to encourage young people referred by the ASB Team, police and the SPLASH project to become qualified sports leaders, thus developing community sports hubs in the city and increasing the volunteer base. The activities will be run in 12 sites identified as hotspots for ASB and will run through the summer months.	Approved		£4,900.00	Yes - See Appendix 01
	Take Control	Enable a group of 8 young people with learning difficulties to increase their confidence and self esteem, learn how to act appropriately in different situations, manage their anger and consider the effects of their behaviour on others. The course is intended as a springboard to other Next Steps courses on work skills and connecting with the community.	Approved		£4,713.00	Yes - Full evaluation document available to view, if required
	Columbus Scheme DVD	Produce a DVD that will be aimed at giving advice and information regarding the hate crime reporting system. It is intended for use with other Columbus materials, such as safety guides, posters and lesson plans.	Approved	£2,000.00		No - Staff changes and lack of information made seeking an evaluation not viable.
	Wulfsan Way CCTV	Prevent historic and current ASB and related criminal activities by groups of youth who congregate in the area of the Wulfsan Way shops. The cameras can be relocated at a future date, if appropriate and will be managed by CHS or property services.	Approved	£4,922.20		No - Original papers misfiled.
	Prudential 4 Youth - Cambridge ISay Yes! Challenge	Introduce the concepts of enterprise and citizenship in young people in Cambridge by focussing on ASB and how it affects young people and adults. To investigate the causes and social impact of ASB and theft in and around the Grafton Centre, and identify potential courses of action to remedy current ASB issues.	Rejected - Project sought a grant for student handbooks, launch/finals events, case study printing and prizes. Costs deemed inappropriate and too high, given the work undertaken by the Community Development Team and the police.	£4,200.00		
	Next Generation - Urban Music & Video Project	Work with young people, mainly young men, to reduce their involvement in common assault, ASB and cycle theft by engaging them in positive diversionary activity, centred around music and video production.	Approved		£4,714.00	Yes - See Appendix 02
	Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC)	Set up costs for CAMBAC including costs for night time disorder officer	Approved		£5,000.00	Yes - See Appendix 03
	City Wide Girls Work Project	Get 4 girl groups together to produce a calendar on tackling issues that face young women in Cambridge.	Rejected - Uncertain how successful the outcome of the project would be.		£2,625.00	
	Winter Escape	Organise and run 2 x 3-day residential for children and young people on the theme of community cohesion	Approved		£4,000.00	Yes - See Appendix 04
	Columbus Scheme Info Packs	Produce around 5,000 information guides for foreign students on a wide range of community safety topics, including personal safety tips, emergency contact numbers and advice lines.	Approved	£1,380.00		No - Staff changes and lack of information made seeking an evaluation not viable.
	Contribution to DV Co-ordinator Post	Contributory amount to the County Council's DV Project Coordinator post for 2007/08.	Approved		£6,000.00	No - Contributions now factored into mainstream funding.

Skills 4 Sport	Develop 'free to join' multi-sport clubs at four sites (Manor, Netherall, St Bedes and the Leys Sports Centres) around the City for 12-15 year olds, being the target age group for the newly formed Cambridge Sport Network. The project would offer sports coaching, by trained coaches and youth workers, at a time of day when young people are causing anti-social behaviour (ASB). There will be 40 weeks of coaching per year per site. It is expected that around 40 young people per site each week will attend. The funding is a contribution towards the costs of the sports coaches and facility hire.	Approved		£4,950.00	Yes - See Appendix 05
Ravensworth Gardens Fencing Improvements	Increase height of fence and gates around Ravensworth Gardens recreation area.	Rejected - Withdrawn by applicant prior to consideration, due to lack of quotes and thought put into application.	£16,000.00		
Ravensworth Gardens CCTV	Prevent abuse of the Ravensworth Gardens area at night from anti-social behaviour, including underage drinking and rough sleeping, and the vandalism of play equipment by the installation of a 'stand alone' CCTV camera. A mobile CCTV system temporarily assigned to cover Ravensworth Gardens resulted in a significant drop in the number of reported incidents.	Approved	£5,000.00		Yes - See Appendix 06
Youth Service Motorbike Project	Have a positive impact on young "hard to reach" people in the 13-17 age group involved in anti-social behaviour, by providing a hands-on mechanics course focussing on motorbikes, as well as legal issues and personal responsibility. The course would lead to appropriate certification and accreditation. The project will also contribute towards reducing vehicle-related offending within this age group by offering safe and supervised access to motorbikes, although the project would not include the riding of motorbikes, save for a one-off session to the Gauntlet Motor Project at Ramsey. Land use at a farm in Hildersham has already established and this part of the Project has already been brought up to Cambridgeshire County Council standards with regards safety and insurance. The funding sought will purchase a crewcab van with seating for six young people and two staff, as well as a separate secure load area for transporting motorbikes and provide running costs for the first year.	Approved	£6,000.00	£1,600.00	Yes - See Appendix 07
Cherry Hinton High Street CCTV	Install a CCTV camera in the Cherry Hinton High Street and link this in with the Cambridge City Council CCTV Control Room in order to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area. The project will be co-sponsored with Cambridge City Council, Tesco and Lloyds-TSB and funding is sought as a one-third contribution towards the £10,600 capital costs of the camera and the annual £1,000 running cost.	Approved	£3,533.00	£333.00	No - But see Appendix 08 - Cambridge News item 20/07/2009
The Hysteria Story	A group of young women will get together to produce a film reflecting and exploring their cultural identity.	Rejected - Insufficient revenue funds following approval of applications during previous round of bids. Due to nature and timing of project, it could not await following year's budget allocation.		£4,171.00	

Safety at Lifecraft Door Lock	Reduce the risk of violent incidents, crime and ASB in the area of Bath House on Mill Road and to protect Lifecraft members, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to enable them to deal with aggressive behaviour. Lifecraft provides support and counselling to adults with mental health needs. The grant sought will provide a remote door release mechanism for the front door of Bath House.	Approved	£625.00	No - Thank you e-mail from Lifecraft dated 08/10/2008
Cambridge Cycle Parking Guide	Provide a simple 8-12 page guide for developers and existing site owners about how to provide secure cycle parking, to encourage them to do so where there are no existing facilities or to upgrade inadequate facilities. Developers are currently failing to meet Cycle Parking Standards and existing guides are often over-complex or not Cambridge-specific. The guide could be used by the City Council and police. The grant sought would cover research, photography, layout, printing and distribution.	Approved	£3,500.00	Yes - See Appendix 09
Homerton Children's Centre Lighting	Purchase 4/5 low-level 'PIR' style lights and install them along the pathway leading to the Homerton Children's Centre in order to provide safe access to the Centre for users of the Centre (including parents and children) and the detail anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime. The Centre will work with the City Council on the installation of the lights and will maintain them independently.	Approved	£4,857.00	Yes - See Appendix 10
Reducing Cycle Crime in Cambridge	Purchase pedal cycles and GPS-based covert tracking equipment in order to help identify thieves and handlers of stolen pedal cycles. Full details of the application cannot be given due to the covert nature of the operation (Operation Cyclone). A grant of £5,000 provided under the 2007/08 Safer & Stronger Communities Fund to purchase similar equipment saw a 10% reduction in pedal cycle-related crime within 6 weeks. This project will contribute towards the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership's seasonal targeted campaign to reduce pedal cycle theft, which is planned for 2008/09.	Approved	£4,790.00	Yes - See Appendix 11
Hulatt Road Lighting Improvements	Purchase a lighting column for the Hulatt Road area in order to provide additional lighting and reduce the crime and the fear of crime for the elderly residents in the area. Cambridgeshire County Council have already agreed to fund 50% of the purchase of the column and fund the maintenance costs.	Approved	£1,100.55	Yes - See Appendix 12
Anstey Way Improved Security	Increase the level of the fencing around a previously installed six-foot iron gate leading to the rear of Anstey Way, where elderly residents live. The Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Community Safety Unit has raised the current fencing as an issue. The City Council has already agreed to fund the maintenance costs for the fencing.	Approved	£695.00	Yes - See Appendix 13

	Boxing for Life	Purchase boxing equipment for use by 13-18 year olds involved in violence and anti-social behaviour relating to alcohol and drugs misuse, in order to curb violent behaviour. It is anticipated that 20 young people will be trained initially during the first year. Romsey Mill staff involved will be liaising with the Iceni Boxing Club in Hardwick.	Approved	£568.00		Yes - See Appendix 14
	Urban Music	Purchase additional microphones and associated audio equipment for the studio at Romsey Mill. The studio is utilised by young men and women aged 14-20 who have a history of anti-social and violent behaviour, to channel their frustration through lyrics and music, increasing their literacy skills and self-esteem. It is anticipated that up to 30 young people a year will benefit from this funding.	Approved	£429.00		Yes - See Appendix 15
<b>2008-2009</b>	Summer Escape	Organize and run 4 x 3-day camping residencies (including exercises and workshops) for approximately 48 9-15 year olds who live in targeted ASB hotspot areas, on the theme of "Being Safe" (i.e. how their behaviour impacts upon them and the people around them).	Approved		£4,950.00	Yes - See Appendix 16
	Abbey Football Outreach	Engage 14-19 year olds from the Abbey Ward in outreach / diversionary work involving football (5-a-side football sessions at the MUGA near Abbey Pool) and other sports activities (possibly involving a residential trip).	Rejected - Project conflicted with other similar Council projects and there was a lack of evaluation of previous projects			
	Pink Festival - Theatre Workshops & Performance	Provide a series of theatre workshops culminating in a topical theatre performance on alcohol-related violence, as part of the Pink Festival 2008.	Rejected - Project sought costs that did not meet Safer City criteria and was better sought through sponsorship			
	Pink Festival - Stewarding	Create a safe environment at the Pink Festival 2008 through SIA-registered stewarding and drink-aware promotions.	Rejected - Stewarding costs not appropriate to Safer City grant scheme			
	Safety at Lifecraft Workshops	Provide a series of training workshops for 18 members of staff and regular visitors to the centre, including understanding drugs and alcohol, personal safety, dealing with aggressive behaviour. The workshops aim to reduce the risk of violent incidents from street life and addicts and equip staff and members with the knowledge and skills to tackle aggressive behaviour.	Approved - Administration/management costs deleted		£2,500.00	Yes - See Appendix 17
	East Chesterton ASB Forum	Bring together the community, police, City Council and Housing Associations at meetings and provide activities for targeted groups of children and young people.	Rejected - Application not supported by evidence and ill thought out			
	Jack Warren Green CCTV	Install CCTV at Jack Warren Green	Rejected - Application lodged by an individual - Matter referred to Granta Housing			

Mediation Drop-in Sessions	Set up Mediation Drop-in sessions across Abbey and Kings Hedges wards to give local residents easy access to dispute resolution and encourage them to use CMS; and to increase multi-party mediation opportunities in both wards by working with groups of people who are experiencing anti-social behaviour within their neighbourhood. Increasing proactive work of the mediation of the service to improve knowledge. CMS would also use funding to facilitate multi-party meetings in order to identify neighbours who would be willing, with the support of the mediators, to represent the group and to meet with the individual or the family alleged to be causing the ASB.	Approved	£497.42	£4,496.50	Yes - See Appendix 18
Breaking Cycles of Deprivation Project	Offer additional counselling, family therapy and group work sessions to identified clients who present with histories of offending or victims of domestic violence.	Rejected - Project conflicted with service provided by Victim Support			
Cam Sight Security Project	Erect a gate at the entrance to the drive leading to Cam Sight's premises and its car park. As the car park is partly secluded, it has been noted that ASB occurs as well as theft of lead from the roof of their premises. Both their insurance company and Cambridgeshire Constabulary have suggested that gating the drive may lead to the reduction of crime and ASB on the premises.	Approved	£870.44	£162.12	Yes - See Appendix 19
Small Print Cyber Bullying Project	Design and produce 5,000 "Small Print" guides on Cyber Bullying aimed at 10-14 year olds. It is planned to launch the guide during Anti-Bullying Week in November.	Approved		£4,950.00	Yes - See Appendix 20
Next Steps: The Drop-In	Provide a weekly forum primarily for people with learning difficulties in order to raise awareness, socialize, share experiences and receive support. Four volunteers with learning difficulties will run the service, assisted by support staff, and provide services for around fifteen people each week. Themed "Drop-ins" will cover those Priorities advised, with help from local community groups and agencies, such as the police and City/County Councils. The grant will pay for project worker costs, volunteer T&S, volunteer training, external professionals and materials, venue hire, office administration, other professional fees, and management and supervision costs.	Rejected - Application sought running costs for an existing project			
Safer Homes, Safer Roads	Initiate a Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme, mainly for the elderly residents in the area, and to help address the anti-social speeding by motorists along the road (used as a "rat run"). The grant is to pay for 6 x NHW signs, 4 x newsletters and invitations to publicise local meetings and campaigns. No funding is sought for the anti-social speeding ("20's plenty") placards/posters.	Approved - NHW scheme already up and running		£84.00	Yes - See Appendix 21

	Cambridge Safe & Legal Cycling Campaign	Achieve a balance between ensuring that the law is enforced while promoting safe and responsible cycling, by purchasing and distributing cycle lights in a series of "actions days". The grant will be used to purchase 300 lights at £10 per set (normally £21.99). These lights will be issued along with an FPN for those cycling after dark without lights on their bike	Approved	£2,978.72		Yes - See Appendix 22
	Marketing the Cambridge Community Alcohol Partnership	Contribute towards the costs of publicising the CAP, via leaflets, posters and a website. The CAP will increase awareness amongst young people, parents and the general community of the harms to health and society of underage drinking. Focus will start in Petersfield, Romsey and Coleridge wards.	Approved		£4,505.00	Yes - See Appendix 23
	Big Issue Outreach & Development	Contribute towards the costs of establishing joint working between Wintercomfort and Big Issue following a funding and personnel restructure. The grant of £3,000 is towards the £26,610 costs for Wintercomfort Reception (37.5hrs/week) and a Big Issue Outreach Worker (14hrs/week). Project is backed by Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.	Approved		£3,000.00	Yes - See Appendix 24
	Taxi Marshal Project	Pay for a pilot scheme using three security staff (provided by Hyline Security) to patrol the St. Andrew's/Sidney Street taxi rank and immediate area during the run up to Christmas and New Year. This area (especially the taxi rank) is known as a hot spot for alcohol-related violence during this period and is not adequately covered by police and/or CCTV.	Approved		£2,491.30	Yes - See Appendix 25
	Cambridge Street Pastors	Design, launch and manage a Street Pastors scheme in Cambridge. Training volunteers will provide a reassuring presence on the streets during the night and provide help and advice to young people. The grant will contribute towards the costs of uniforms and equipment (capital) and publicity and training (revenue).	Approved	£3,247.00	£1,753.00	No - Full evaluation of scheme due September 2010
	Hulatt Road Security Doors	Improve security and reduce crime and the fear of crime amongst the eleven elderly residents of Hulatt Road by replacing the part-glazed front doors with more solid doors.	Approved	£2,076.25		No - Evaluation due September 2010
	CUSU Cycle Safety Campaign	Offer free cycle lessons to freshers or any other students who feel the need (36 students have already expressed interest). Also, raise awareness of safer cycling through posters and flyers.	Approved		£1,110.45	Yes - See Appendix 37
	Cockerell Road Sheds Security Improvements	Make a range of security improvements to sheds used by residents of 30 to 172 Cockerell Road, which are subjected to frequent vandalism.	Approved	£4,726.41	£120.00	No - Due to staff changes in CHN - However, no reported ASB, etc in area
	Litchfield Road Recreational Improvements	Install a goal post system on the playing area in Litchfield Road, encouraging ball play within the boundaries of the park.	Approved	£2,000.00		Yes - See Appendix 26
	Lammas Land CCTV Upgrade	Upgrade the existing CCTV system by adding three extra cameras and replacing the recorder.	Rejected - Withdrawn as not supported by ward councillors			

	Islam & Extremism Conference	Hold a conference giving basic Islamic knowledge to practitioners and others, exploring the word "jihad" and its meaning, looking at what is linking Islam with extremism and seeking to clarify Islam's stance on such acts.	Approved		£652.50	Yes - Brief report from James McWilliams
	Covent Garden Gate	Erect a gate at the entrance of a shared driveway on Mill Road to prevent use by street-life, drug dealers, and as a toilet.	Approved	£5,000.00		No - Delays in finalising scheme - Evaluation due November 2010
	Safety At Lifestart CCTV	Install three CCTV cameras on the external walls of Bath House, to monitor those approaching the front entrance, and related recording equipment.	Approved	£3,758.20		Yes - See Appendix 27
	Security Improvement - Walpole Road Flats	Install a door and door entry system in order to deter children loitering in a shared communal entrance.	Rejected - Withdrawn due to lack of full agreement from residents			
	Mill Road Cemetery - Environmental Improvements	Funding for British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) to work with volunteers in the local area to clear up over grown vegetation and poorly managed sections of Mill Road Cemetery. £250 is the day rate for BTCV	Approved		£250.00	Yes - See Appendix 28
	Bobby For Cambridge	Introduce a third part-time Bobby based in Cambridge. The grant would provide a uniform and essential equipment for a third van already owned by the Bobby Scheme. Salary costs for the third Bobby are being funded by the police, this grant is for capital start up costs.	Approved	£4,216.91		Yes - See Appendix 29
	Safe Children - Safe Staff	Provide staff with high-visibility T-shirt, walkie-talkies and mobile phones. The group provides leisure activities for children with learning disabilities. The T-shirts will help identify staff to the children, whilst the walkie-talkies and mobile phones will keep staff in contact with each other during excursions.	Approved	£707.00		Yes - See Appendix 30
	The Junction Foyer	Convert part of the foyer area in The Junction to a multi-use young persons area. Funding to be used from the aborted "One Stop Shop" project granted £10,000 in May 2004.	Approved	£10,000.00		No - Delays in finalising scheme - Evaluation due September 2010
	Street Games	Undertake 12 weeks of diversionary activity at times of the day that ASB is at its highest level.	Withdrawn - Application sought funds for existing project - Active Communities to seek funds from alternative source in future.			
	East Barnwell Community Centre CCTV	Replace hard drive for CCTV system.	Withdrawn - Application sought maintenance costs for existing Safer City funded project for which a maintenance contract was supposed to be in place.			
	Security / Peace of Mind	Install street lighting and CCTV.	Withdrawn - Application from an individual.			
	Manor Place CCTV	Install a CCTV system at entrances to Manor Place to combat ASB, including freerunners, bike thieves and drunks from the local pub.	Approved	£5,028.95		Yes - See Appendix 31
	Mawson Road Security Gate	Erect a security gate across a passageway between two terrace blocks on Mawson Road, to prevent burglaries to the 16 effected properties (12 on Mawson Road and 4 on Glisson Road).	Approved	£1,662.90		Yes - See Appendix 32

Graffiti Workshop and Display	Implement the winning idea of the Say Yes Challenge 2008 from Coleridge Community College. The idea is basically to have mobile 'wall' on which youths can express themselves using graffiti safely and legally. The grant sought will 'match fund' that from The Grafton and will contribute towards materials and graffiti artist/staff time. The project is supported by the Safer Communities Section and ChYpPS.	Approved		£500.00	No - E-mail from Prudential 4 Youth
Mortimer Road Street Lighting	To upgrade the existing street lamps in Mortimer Road and install a CCTV system to prevent attacks on local residents/students. The upgrading of the street lamps will be undertaken by the County Council.	Partially approved - CCTV deemed not suitable	£1,700.82		Yes - See Appendix 33
Ravensworth Gardens Children's Playground	Secure the children's play area at night to prevent ASB by means of raised height to the existing fencing and the installation of timed locks.	Approved - On a trial period of 2 years	£7,935.00		No - Evaluation (if any) due August 2011
Operation Cyclone	Provide six highly visible and marked police cycles for use by the Constabulary as part of "Operation Cyclone".	Rejected - £1,753 grant from aborted Alpha Way gating project			
Police Information Kiosk Project	Ensure the provision of improved information and access to support serves for victims by providing access to a wall-mounted touch screen information point at Addenbrooke's A&E Department. The system will provide access to CJS information, victim support services, health intervention services, and will provide crime prevention messages and police contacts.	Approved	£1,743.33	£576.67	No - Evaluation due September 2010
Sex Workers Advisory Network (SWAN)	Assist CDIP with the start up funding of this project for publicity materials, accommodation (drop-in centre) and other associated costs.	Approved		£3,000.00	Yes - See Appendix 34
Fear of Queer	Run a number (10) of workshops with young people to explore hate crime and homophobia, as well as work with (and help promote) the Open Out reporting scheme. The result will be to put out a positive image campaign in Cambridge.	Approved		£4,345.00	No - Evaluation still pending
Life Coaching at Cambridge Women's Resource Centre	Teach life-coaching techniques to those women who are likely to either be victims of domestic violence or likely to re-offend.	Approved		£1,000.00	Yes - See Appendix 35
Fernwood Sheltered Housing Fencing	Replace the existing one metre-high chain link fencing with two metre high wooden fencing.	Approved	£3,459.98		No - Project manager since moved on
Abbey and Coleridge Action for Youth	Reduce ASB in the East Barnwell area by providing a range of diversionary activities for young people (two groups - Year 6 and Years 7-11). Funding is for meeting room hire, youth participation panels, a music project and a sports project.	Approved		£4,426.00	No - Evaluation still pending
Tackling Prejudice	Educate the general public, police and other professional bodies about the prejudice suffered by people with disabilities by means of specially-filmed episodes produced to DVD and websites.	Rejected - Deemed more of an arts project and not within the remit			



Bracklyn And Corrie Roads Lighting And Fencing	Install a street light on Corrie Road / Bracklyn Road cut through and repair a broken section of wooden fencing by the Bracklyn Road garages. Both will hopefully lead to a reduction in ASB in the area and an improvement in residents feelings of safety following a robbery in the passageway earlier in 2009.	Approved - Project part funded from SSCF	£4,191.20	No - Evaluation not expected due to nature of application and lack of project manager
Columbus Project	Produce a guide (x5,000) and associated promotional poster (x1,000).	Rejected - Application sought funds for existing project		
Cambridge Night Map	Produce a folding credit card-sized map of the "night-time economy" of Cambridge - showing location of taxi-ranks, bus routes, ATMs, etc. as well as important telephone number - for visitors, students and residents. The aim of the map will be to assist visitors leaving the city and help students feel more confident and safe in the city, especially at night.	Approved	£2,500.00	No - Evaluation still pending
Wilson Close CCTV	Purchase and install 4 CCTV cameras and associated recording equipment along Wilson Close in order to address fear of crime and ASB in the area.	Approved	£4,909.30	No - Project delayed due to problems with location site for one of the cameras
Fair Street Car Park Gate	Erect a brick wall and wooden lockable gate across a communal back passage and bike shed that has been the site of persistent ASB.	Approved	£2,541.00	Yes - See Appendix 38
Night Fever Football	Provide "sustainable life skills" to young people in north Cambridge by means of free weekly football sessions and 1-2-1 coaching.	Approved	£4,835.00	No - Evaluation due March 2011
Security for Attendees (Mosque Security Lighting)	Provide security to the mosque and cultural centre by installing iron gates and security lights, in order to combat ASB.	Partially approved - Theft of iron gates should be covered by insurance - Grant only for lighting	£1,217.24	No - Lights not yet installed
Primary Court Replacement Fencing	Replace damaged fencing by Primary Court.	Rejected - Application more an environmental improvement To be funded by Safer Communities Section		
Taxi Driver Crime Prevention Event	Hold a one-day event, aimed at taxi drivers, focussing on conflict management, legislation and crimes relevant to the taxi-driving community. The grant will cover venue and trainer costs: taxi drivers will cover the refreshment costs.	Approved	£790.00	Yes - See Appendix 36
Stay Safe!	Produce, promote and distribute personal information cards to young people with disabilities, in order to address the concerns of those people in relation to feeling vulnerable and being the victims of crime. The aim of Stay Safe is to make people with disabilities feel safer going out in Camb City Centre, Equip them with information required to get help in an emergency. Encourage people with disabilities to report crimes. Encourage businesses around the city to work together and prevent crimes against people with disabilities, Reduce crimes against people with learning difficulties in Cambridge City Centre	Approved	£2,383.00	No - Evaluation due October 2010

	Richmond Road Neighbourhood Security Scheme	Provide a whole range of security improvements to properties in Richmond Road, in order to create a safe and secure environment. The properties were identified following consultation and working with City Rangers and the police. RA will work in conjunction with the selected contractor, Infinito.	Approved	£5,000.00		No - Not yet advised of conclusion of project
	Volunteer ID Badges	Fund the costs of producing and mailing out 200 laminated ID badges to Cruse volunteers.	Rejected - Issue of ID badges deemed part of normal business			
	Tackle Life	Target young men aged 19+, who have been out of work for at least 6 months, in the north of the city, working with CRC to address lack of skills, qualifications and self esteem using football diversionary activities as a "hook".	Rejected - Project conflicted with other County engagement projects provided by CYPs			



To: Community Services Scrutiny Committee  
Report by: Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health – Cllr. Tim Bick  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee  
Wards affected: All Wards

## **Draft: LAA Performance Report 2009/10 – CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST**

### **Not a Key Decision**

#### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The City Council is a key partner in Cambridgeshire Together. This partnership has overall responsibility for negotiating the Local Area Agreement for Cambridgeshire and making sure it is delivered.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire Together has delegated responsibility for delivery of targets within the LAA to 6 thematic strategic partnerships. Partnership arrangements are presently being reviewed and it is likely that there will be fewer partnership bodies in the future.
- 1.3 An Executive Councillor from the City Council sits on Cambridgeshire Together and each of the thematic strategic partnerships. It was agreed that they present an annual report on performance against their partnership's LAA targets to the relevant City Council Scrutiny Committee. This paper is one of six providing this report.

#### **2. Recommendations**

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the 2009/10 year-end performance against the LAA indicators that have been assigned to the Community Wellbeing Partnership.
- 2.2 Advise the Executive Councillor of any issues or suggestions for further action that the partnership should consider to improve performance against the indicators.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Cambridgeshire is an agreement between the government and Cambridgeshire County Council and its partners for improving selected services and getting better outcomes for local people. It contains a number of targets (55) and the intention was for the government to appraise performance against these, with the possibility of Reward Grant being distributed based on their achievement, at the end of a 3 year period (2008/09 to 2010/11). This grant has now been withdrawn, as a part of the new government's public spending review, and it is unlikely that a "refreshed" LAA will be in place after April 2011.
- 3.2 Cambridgeshire Together is the body responsible for overseeing the LAA and acts as the Local Strategic Partnership for Cambridgeshire. It has assigned responsibility for developing and delivering actions to bring about the improvements in the LAA to 6 thematic strategic partnerships, involving elected members, who work with specialist officers with responsibility for services contributing to the targets in their area. Some of the partnerships existed before the LAA and have a wider remit. Partnership arrangements are presently being reviewed and it is likely that there will be fewer county-wide partnership bodies in the future, especially if there is no LAA to deliver.
- 3.3 Many City Council staff are presently involved in partnership work. Partnership working, when effective, can have major benefits for the City Council. For example, it can help us to deliver our own objectives such as sustainable growth and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by influencing the priorities of partners and the way in which they deliver their services.
- 3.4 Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) set out a vision for the City in its Sustainable Community Strategy. This helped inform the Vision for Cambridgeshire, which in turn set the priorities that formed the focus of the LAA. Therefore, if the LAA is successfully delivered, the City's Sustainable Community Strategy will, to a large extent, also be delivered.
- 3.5 Cambridge LSP has now merged with South Cambridgeshire LSP to form a single LSP covering both districts. It continues to monitor the performance of the LAA locally and is looking to ensure that local partnerships and lead partners are contributing effectively to its achievement. One key task for the new LSP over the next year will be to prepare a shared Sustainable Community Strategy. This will involve consulting partnerships and other stakeholders about local priorities. The approach to developing the strategy may need to change,

however, with the emergence of new frameworks and reference points from the government.

- 3.6 Cambridge City Council has nominated Executive members to each of the 6 thematic strategic partnerships, to the Cambridgeshire Together Board and Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership. As well as helping to facilitate better partnership working and bringing about service improvements across partner agencies, the Council agreed that Executive members would give an account of the partnerships work to their scrutiny committees, so that scrutiny committee members can assess progress.
- 3.7 This report focuses on the performance of indicators, overseen by this partnership, that have been assigned LAA targets.

#### **4. Introduction to Cambridgeshire Children's Trust**

- 4.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership agreed at their meeting of 11 September 2009 to the decommissioning of the strategic partnership and the formation of the new Cambridgeshire Children's Trust. This had been required by legislation.
- 4.1 The Cambridgeshire Children's Trust is the sum total of co-operative arrangements and partnerships between organisations with a role in improving outcomes for children and young people. The Cambridgeshire Children's Trust Board is the statutory group for ensuring that Trust arrangements work in Cambridgeshire. Councillor Tim Bick represents the City Council on the Board.
- 4.2 The purpose of the Children's Trust Board ("the Board") is to set the strategic direction and commissioning of services in Cambridgeshire in order to improve outcomes for children and young people. The way this will be done is through the BigPlan2 and Children's Workforce Strategy. The Board has a strong relationship with the Local Safeguarding Children Board and they support and challenge the Board in its work.
- 4.3 Supporting the Board in delivering this work are the Children's Trust Executive and the Children and Young People's Area Partnerships. The area partnership covering the City is the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Area Partnership, one of the three such area partnerships in the county. Area partnerships allow local service providers and service users to engage with the Board, bringing forward local issues.

4.4 Cambridgeshire Children's Trust has agreed the following four priorities for children and young people in Cambridgeshire for the next twelve months.

**Priority One:** To help children and young people feel safe and happy in their communities by:

- Providing safe places to play and access to positive activities (including play and sport)
- Tackling bullying and discrimination
- Reducing accidents and intentional injuries to children and young people
- Reducing the number of children and young people involved in antisocial behaviour and criminal activity
- Promoting positive images of young people

**Priority Two:** To narrow the gap in outcomes for children and young people by:

- Improving achievement for all and narrowing the gap for specific groups of children and young people
- Improving health for all and narrowing the gap in health outcomes for specific groups of children and young people

**Priority Three:** To improve outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and complex needs

**Priority Four:** To meet the needs of children and young people in areas of growth or demographic change

4.5 Other key work underway currently is to consider both the needs identified in the new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for children and young people and individual organisational requirements in order to determine priorities for the Trust for collective and individual agency action. This work will be finalised in October.

4.6 The Cambridgeshire Children's Board has overseen the performance monitoring of the following LAA targets:

- NI 51 - Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services
- NI 54 – Services for disabled children
- NI 69 – Children who have experienced bullying (LOCAL TARGET)
- NI 70 Hospital admissions for children/young people for intentional and non-intentional injuries

- NI 110 – Young people’s participation in positive activities
- NI 111 – First time entrants to the Youth Justice System
- NI 112 – Under 18 conception rate
- NI 117 16-18 in NEET

## 5.0 Performance against LAA targets

5.1 Overall the majority of performance indicators in this area were thought to be on target. The following LAA indicators, shown in Table 1, overseen by this partnership had missed its target at the end of the second year.

**Table1: Underperforming Indicators at end of year 2009/10**

NI	Description	Baseline	Current Performance	Target 2009/10
NI 112	<b>Equality &amp; Inclusion</b> Under 18 conception rate	-16.2%	-15% (2007/08)	-37.7%
NI 117	<b>Equality &amp; Inclusion</b> 16-18 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	5%	5.5%	4.8%

5.2 The target to **reduce the under 18 conception rate** in Cambridgeshire is hampered by the 14 month delay in the publication of the data, due to the way it is collected. In 2007 Cambridgeshire saw a small rise in the conception rate (rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to17), which mirrored a national increase in rates. This increase equates to only 6 conceptions across the county. Across districts progress has been variable and although the City has seen a reduction (just over 11% against the baseline of 37 per 1,000 girls aged 15 – 17 years old) the numbers are relatively low (at 33.1per 1,000 girls aged 15-17 years old) making targeted action difficult in some places. Teenage pregnancy is linked to a wide variety of factors such as deprivation levels, educational attainment at schools, involvement in crime, looked after children, etc.

5.3 The Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy Partnership is guiding work in this area and has implemented a number of projects that will make a difference in reducing conceptions. This partnership is only guaranteed funding until the end of 2010/11 and there is uncertainty about whether the work of the team will continue in the future. If the target is not achieved there will still have been significant

improvements from the work, including the improved sexual health of young people.

- 5.4 The **percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)** in the county rose during the course of the year reflecting the decrease in employment opportunities for young people. This was partially offset by an increase, during the same period, of the number of 16 to 18s remaining in learning.
- 5.5 At present (prior to the start of the new academic year) it is difficult to ascertain performance because many young people haven't decided to take up of their entitlement to an offer of a place in learning yet. The position in the City has improved from a peak of 7.4% at the height of the recession to just over 6% or 182, 16 – 18 year old people. Cambridge LSP partners were encouraged to offer a range of work related learning opportunities for young people, particularly apprenticeships at a meeting in November 2009. The LSP also agreed to re-direct some of its Reward Grant allocation to support work to reduce the number of NEETS in the City.

## **6.0 Local issues affecting performance of LAA targets**

- 6.1 The Area Partnership assists with the delivery and review of Big Plan 2 activities and targets. It also provides a vehicle for researching and promoting action on local needs. In 2009 the City and County Councils jointly commissioned research into the needs of children and young people living in deprivation and at risk of disaffection across South Cambs and the City. This research has been used to inform the development of a programme of activities prioritising work on bullying, access to mental health services and on the provision of social and recreation opportunities in isolated or underprovided areas and neighbourhoods.

## **7. Implications**

- 7.1 The LAA sets out shared priorities and agreed targets for partners across the County, including Cambridge City Council. Failure to meet these targets will have an impact on the quality of life of County residents.

## **Financial**

- 7.2 Failure to meet all the LAA targets at the end of the 3 year period (2008/09 – 2010/11) will reduce the amount of grant awarded to Cambridgeshire Together, assuming this is allocated.



## **Staff**

7.3 A considerable number of City Council staff from all departments are working with partners to deliver the LAA.

## **Equal Opportunities**

7.4 Equality and Inclusion is a key strand of the LAA

## **Community Safety**

7.5 Safer and Stronger Communities is a key strand of the LAA

## **8. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Cambridgeshire Area Self Assessment – May 2010

Local Area Agreement, Year End Performance Report - May 2010

Proposals for a New Model of Partnership Working – May 2010

Cambridge LSP, Performance Management Report – January 2010

[Children and Young Living in Deprivation, the Disaffected and at Risk of Disaffection – March 2010](#)

## **9. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name:

Author's Phone Number:

Author's Email:

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To: Community Services Scrutiny Committee  
Report by: Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health - Cllr Tim Bick  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee  
Wards affected: All Wards

## **LAA Performance Report 2009/10 - SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC BOARD**

### **Not a Key Decision**

#### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The City Council is a key partner in Cambridgeshire Together. This partnership had overall responsibility for negotiating the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Cambridgeshire and is overseeing its delivery.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire Together has delegated responsibility for delivery of targets within the LAA to 6 thematic strategic partnerships. The Leader sits on Cambridgeshire Together and an Executive Councillor from the City Council sits on each of the thematic strategic partnerships.
- 1.3 It was agreed that they should present an annual report on performance against their partnership's LAA targets to the relevant City Council Scrutiny Committee. This paper relates to the LAA targets delegated to the Safer and Stronger Strategic Board under the theme of Safer and Stronger Communities. The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health represents the City Council on this partnership.

#### **2. Recommendations**

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the 2009/10 year-end performance against the LAA indicators that have been assigned to the Safer and Stronger Board.
- 2.2 Advise the Executive Councillor of any issues or suggestions for further action that the partnership should consider to improve performance against the indicators.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 An approach to our involvement in, and reporting on, county-wide thematic strategic partnerships was agreed by the Leader at Strategy and Resources scrutiny committee on 19 January 2009. Executive Councillors, nominated by the Council, now sit on the Cambridgeshire Together Board alongside other key public service stakeholders in the county and are involved in each of its six thematic strategic partnerships.
- 3.2 It was agreed that they should present an annual report on performance against their partnership's LAA targets to the relevant City Council Scrutiny Committee. This paper relates to the LAA targets 'owned' by the Safer and Stronger Board under the theme of Safer and Stronger Communities. The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health represents the City Council on this partnership.

### **4. Introduction to Safer and Stronger Strategic Board**

- 4.1 The Safer and Stronger Strategic Board ("the Board") grew out of the Community Safety Strategic Board and brings together Community Safety Partnerships (formerly Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships), the Domestic Violence Partnership, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team, the Road Safety Partnership, Community Cohesion, Community Engagement and Third Sector Development.
- 4.2 Recent work of the Board has included a commitment to extend an integrated Offender Management Programme across Cambridgeshire, the development and launch of the a Third Sector Assembly, agreement about the allocation of revenue funding to district Community Safety Partnerships, Domestic Abuse Unit and Priority and Prolific Offender schemes in Cambridgeshire and the implementation of new duties to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its sub-partnerships.
- 4.3 The Safer Officer Group and the Stronger Officer Group sit beneath the Safer and Stronger Strategic Board, bringing together representatives from key partner organisations. They provide the main operational direction for the two themes (Safer and Stronger) and take the lead on managing performance against the National Indicators (performance targets agreed with central government).

#### 4.4 The Board oversees the performance of the following LAA targets:

To be reduced:

- NI 16 - serious acquisitive crime (burglary, vehicle crime and robbery)
- NI 17 - perception of anti-social behaviour
- NI 20 - assault with less serious injury
- NI 21 - dealing with local concerns about antisocial behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police (Local Target)
- NI 32 - repeat incidents of domestic violence
- NI 47 - people killed or injured in road traffic accidents
- NI 115 - substance misuse by young people

To be increased:

- NI 1 - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together
- NI 4 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
- NI 7 - environment for a thriving third sector

### 5.0 Performance against LAA targets

5.1 Overall the majority of performance indicators in this area were thought to be on target. The following LAA indicators, shown in Table 1, overseen by this partnership had missed its target at the end of the second year.

**Table1: Underperforming Indicators at end of year 2009/10**

NI	Description	Baseline	Current Performance	Target 2009/10
NI 115	Safer & Stronger Substance misuse by young people	11.8	9.6	9.1

5.2 The indicator for **substance misuse by young people**, the number of young people who are thought to be using drugs, is measured at a district level through the TellUs4<sup>1</sup> survey, which was carried in late 2009. It is also used to inform other national indicators of the views of children and young people about their area. The Safer and Stronger Strategic Board is seeking to negotiate a more appropriate target with GOEast, as it feels this indicator overstates the extent of misuse.

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<sup>1</sup>

## Local issues affecting performance of LAA targets

### 6. Safer Communities

6.1 2009/10 was generally a successful year in meeting targets for the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership. However, delays in getting confirmation of Safer and Stronger Funding for 2010/11 and subsequent cuts of 10% in the promised funding have meant that the majority of projects have been hold until July of this year with possible impact on reduction in crime for the first half of this year. The Community Safety Partnership have now reviewed their spend plan and task group action plans and are working hard to make up for lost time. Local outcomes for indicators that the partnership contributes to are shown below.

#### a. NI16 – Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

6.2 This indicator includes burglary of homes, personal robbery, business robbery and theft from and of vehicles. ***In 2009/10 SAC was reduced overall in Cambridge City by 21%***, when compared to the previous year. The Cambridge Community Safety Partnership had burglary and personal robbery as priorities and the Acquisitive Crime Group had an extensive action plan to reduce these crimes.

6.3 ***Burglary of homes was reduced by 27%***. As part of Operation Vigilance – a home office funded initiative – the burglary task group carried out a series of actions, for example:

- *A small number of suspected prolific offenders were identified and then targeted. Enforcement activities were organised, planned and executed to disrupt their offending behaviour.*
- *The City Council's refuse vehicles were used to run an advertising campaign promoting 'Crimestoppers' and to encourage the anonymous submission of information regarding offenders.*
- *The Cambridge Community Safety Partnership funded continuation of the focused youth work in the north of the City. The work was also replicated and extended to the south. Between 8-10 young people were positively engaged in diversionary activities.*

6.4 ***Personal robbery was reduced by 27%***.

*Work includes:*

- *Running a marketing campaign targeting groups most represented as both victims and offenders of personal robbery.*

- *The Children and Young People's Services targeting diversionary activities to increase the awareness of the consequences of offending behaviour.*
- *The physical environment of areas identified to be at risk of personal robbery offences were improved through better lighting and fencing.*

6.5 *Burglary and Personal robbery remain priorities for the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership for 2010/11.*

*b. NI17 – Perceptions of anti-social behaviour (ASB)*

*c. NI21 - Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police*

6.6 The focus for the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership (CCSP) for 2009/10 was on alcohol related anti-social behaviour, and vehicle/pedal cycle-related ASB. Criminal damage is monitored as the crime most closely related to ASB. The CCSP priority to reduce these offences below the levels of 2008/09 has been soundly achieved.

6.7 ***Criminal damage offences (including Threats) were 19.6% lower*** than in 2008/09. When compared with similar partnerships in its family group, Cambridge is 5<sup>th</sup> out of 15 partnerships.

*The projects that contributed to the reduction included:*

- *Street surgeries which were held by City Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service and the Bobby Scheme, promoting community safety messages, distributing forensic property marking fluid and fitting security locks and fire alarms. Broken fences were mended and garage blocks painted. Labour was provided under the 'community payback' scheme and extra policing.*
- *The 'Sort Your Lights Out' project aimed to discourage anti-social cycling and encourage safe and legal parking. Council staff and police held a series of events where 210 fixed penalty notices were issued and 200 sets of lights were fixed.*
- *The Motiv8 Youth project targeted 12-15 year olds on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) or at risk of obtaining ABCs and provided structured activities, The Young people were rewarded by qualifications at the end of the project. Of the 13 youths who attended only 2 have come to the attention of the police since the end of the project.*

*d. N120 – Assault with injury*

6.8 The priority for the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership for 2009/10 was Alcohol Related Violent Crime. This priority is

monitored through recorded offences for Assault with Less Serious Injury; **these offences were reduced by 13% in 2009/10** when compared with the previous year. When compared with similar partnerships in its family group, Cambridge is 3rd out of 15 partnerships so is performing very well.

*The Alcohol Related Violent Crime and ASB task group worked on projects including:*

- *Operation Sodium – providing a highly visible police presence in hotspot areas in the City and supporting partner agencies in the nighttime economy on special events during the year such as Christmas and New Year.*
- *Street Pastors, where trained volunteers patrol on Friday and Saturday nights, providing practical assistance to people in difficulty or distress from over-indulgence.*
- *CAMBAC taxi marshalling, the nighttime care facility, training for bar staff and work with Addenbrookes Emergency Department.*

6.9 Alcohol related violent crime and anti-social behaviour remain a priority for the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership for 2010/11.

*e. NI32 – Repeat incidence of Domestic Violence*

6.10 The County target for NI32 is that repeat rates should not be higher than 28% has been achieved. **The highest number of referrals to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in the County is from Cambridge, making up 30% of all referrals for the 2009/10.** Efficiencies and savings have been made by working closely with other districts on the issue of domestic abuse. It made sense therefore for the City, South and East Domestic Violence task groups to be merged and this has happened.

6.11 The Sanctuary scheme continued to provide victims of domestic abuse with a secure area within a property, allowing them and their dependents to remain in the family home, avoiding homelessness. 5 Sanctuaries were provided in Cambridge City last year. Other projects that continued to tackle domestic abuse were the Women's Freedom programme run by Women's Aid providing 48 groups sessions and the Young people's freedom programme run by Romsey Mill aimed at young women who had been subjected to domestic abuse.

6.12 Domestic Violence remains a priority for the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership for 2010/11.

*f. NI115 - Substance misuse by young people*



- 6.13 ***The Drug and Alcohol Team report that they have exceeded their 2009/10 target for the number of clients in effective treatment:*** the number of Problem Drug Users is 1.187 (118% of the target) and the number of adults is 1,418 (115% of the target).

*Work includes:*

- *A new treatment service the Cambridgeshire Child and Adolescent Substance Use Service (CASUS) is expected to have a positive impact on the amount of work that can be done in this area across the County as staffing levels have increased and links with other service deliverers has improved.*
- *The Prolific and Priority Offenders and the Drug Intervention programmes have been merged and re-located to Parkside Police Station and will now be managed under the Integrated Offender Management initiative.*
- *Addaction has been contracted to provide Alcohol Services across the County. The key feature of the new service is to deliver within the community to raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol abuse and to maximise access to specialist help for “emerging risk” drinkers.*

## **7. Stronger Communities**

- 7.1 The City’s grant funding contributes to the general aims of the safer and stronger themes and specifically to a number of indicators, for example:

*a. NI 32 - repeat incidents of domestic violence*

*Work includes:*

- *Funding to support the delivery of the Freedom Programme courses.*

*b. NI 1% - people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together*

*Work includes:*

- *Establishing a new grants budget 2010-11 within Community Developing support for community cohesion projects*
- *Generally Community Development Grants, including Area Committee Grants, support activities and services across the diverse range of communities in local neighbourhoods, across the City and the surrounding area.*
- *Consultation is taking place on combating the threat of violent extremism and building better relations with Muslim communities, in particular.*

- *Delivering LPSA projects such as Bling-Ya-Ting and the Cambridge Mela.*

*c.NI 7 – environment for a thriving third sector*

*Work includes:*

- *Developing and raising awareness of the voluntary sector Compact.*
- *The formation of a Compact and Funders Countywide Partnership.*
- *Standardisation of grant forms across the statutory agencies*
- *Infrastructure Organisation’s Review*
- *Joint Monitoring of organisations funded by multiple statutory agencies*
- *Mapping the funding allocated by statutory agencies to third sector organisations countywide.*

## **7. Implications**

7.1 The LAA sets out shared priorities and agreed targets for partners across the County, including Cambridge City Council. Failure to meet these targets will have an impact on the quality of life of County residents.

### **Financial**

7.2 Failure to meet all the LAA targets at the end of the 3 year period (2008/09 – 2010/11) will reduce the amount of grant awarded to Cambridgeshire Together, assuming this is allocated.

### **Staff**

7.3 A considerable number of City Council staff from all departments are working with partners to deliver the LAA.

### **Equal Opportunities**

7.4 Equality and Inclusion is a key strand of the LAA

### **Community Safety**

7.5 Safer and Stronger Communities is a key strand of the LAA

## **8. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Cambridgeshire Area Self Assessment – May 2010

Local Area Agreement, Year End Performance Report - May 2010

Proposals for a New Model of Partnership Working – May 2010

Cambridge LSP, Performance Management Report – January 2010

## **9. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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To: Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation - Cllr Rod Cantrill

Report by: Debbie Kaye, Head of Arts & Recreation

Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 14/10/2010

Wards affected: None

**CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PRODUCTION SERVICES TO THE FOLK FESTIVAL IN THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2011-2013**  
**Not a Key Decision**

**1. Executive summary**

The information in this report will enable Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor to decide whether to allow Arts & Recreation to invite competitive tenders for production services for forthcoming Folk Festivals. The Production services to be tendered comprise:

	<b>£ Pa</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Contract value</b>
Porta Cabins	£34,000	3 years	£102,000
Toilets & Showers	£69,000	3 years	£207,000
Sound	£38,000	3 years	£114,000
Marquees	£77,000	1 year	£ 77,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£500,000</b>

**2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To authorise the Head of Arts and Recreation to tender for a contractors to provide services for the Folk Festival. These services comprise marquees, sound, toilets/showers & porta cabins. Total value of the contracts is estimated at up to £500,000.
- 2.2 To authorise the Head of Arts and Recreation to award the contracts to the most favourable tenders, in accordance with pre-determined selection criteria.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The current contracts for Folk Festival provision have expired.
- 3.2 A contract of only one year is to be offered for marquees to accommodate possible changes to the Folk Festival specification, as a result of any future re-development of the propagation centre at Cherry Hinton Hall.
- 3.3 The other contracts (Toilets/showers, sound and porta cabins) will be offered on a 3 year basis but with a clause that allows us to end the contract after one or two years service if required.

### 4. Implications

- (a) **Financial Implications.** The contracts have a combined value of £500,000. Budgeted provision is available to cover the estimated total contract value. If for any reason the cost of the contract is more than 15% higher than this, following consultation with the Director of Finance, the Executive Councillor will be asked to consider a decision on the contract award and any such acceptance of a higher offer will be reported to the next Scrutiny Committee. Financial implications are also contained in budget papers.
- (b) **Staffing Implications.** None.
- (c) **Equal Opportunities Implications.** All tenders shall be dealt within accordance with the Constitution and shall be subject to a team evaluation, which shall include an Officer independent of Arts & Recreation
- (d) **Environmental Implications.** Environmental performance of contract bidders (such as their recycling policy and appropriate minimising of power use) will form part of the selection criteria. Reference will be made to the Council's Green Procurement Guidelines as part of the tendering and selection process.
- (e) **Community Safety Implications.** Whilst noting environmental implications, those attending our events/parks and residents need to be able to see and be safe.

## **5. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:  
Details of costs in 2010  
Budget papers 2010/11  
2008-2010 Invitation to Tender, Form of Tender, Contract Conditions,  
Specification

## **6. Appendices**

None

## **7. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report  
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## Cambridge City Council

To: Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation  
Report by: Head of Streets and Open Spaces  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 14/10/ 2010

### **Proposals for the improvement and enhancement of Cherry Hinton Hall Key Decision**

#### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 In 2009 a series of workshops were carried out with local residents and a report commissioned to examine usage, needs, and the likely improvements needed at Cherry Hinton Hall.
- 1.2 Officers have worked with a series of key stakeholders to consider the future use of an area previously occupied by the former propagation centre in the centre of the Cherry Hinton Hall. In addition to this, stakeholders were asked to consider the whole park for improvement and enhancement. Both of these approaches have influenced the design of the masterplan which is detailed in Appendix A.
- 1.3 On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010, South Area Committee, considered the draft masterplan and agreed the inclusion of questions in the consultation on the principle of creating a City Farm on the former propagation site. To facilitate these questions a proposal was submitted by City Farm<sup>1</sup> as set out in Appendix B.
- 1.4 A public consultation has been undertaken on the draft masterplan, and a report has been prepared detailing the findings, making recommendations and this is attached as Appendix C.
- 1.5 There is evidence to support the view that the masterplan has found wide acceptance and can be approved on this basis.
- 1.6 The City Farm concept, however, has substantial support and cannot be ignored just because it did not form part of the initial scoping discussions nor feature in the masterplan. There is, though, limited detail on how this may impact on the site and on other Masterplan content, and therefore a feasibility study should be undertaken, to

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cambridge-city-farm.org.uk/>

determine whether a City Farm is viable within a reasonable footprint in Cherry Hinton Hall, or indeed whether a different location might be preferable.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 The Executive Councillor is recommended to: -

- a) Approve the components of the masterplan set out at paragraph 4.5;
- b) To instruct officers to undertake a project appraisal of the masterplan for future consideration by Community Services Scrutiny Committee;
- c) Authorise officers to deliver the ChYpPS<sup>2</sup> Big Lottery funded elements of the plan around the pond area;
- d) Support the principle of a City Farm and to instruct officers to work with the City Farm Project to prepare a feasibility study; and
- e) To liaise with the Folk Festival project team to integrate the masterplan with operational requirements of the Folk Festival.

## **3. Background**

3.1 The former propagation centre compound in the centre of the Hall grounds has been fallow since its demolition and there have been discussions about future land use.

3.2 A report entitled “Understanding usage, needs, and improvements at Cherry Hinton Hall” – Appendix D was commissioned in January 2009 and had the following key objectives: -

- a) To examine how people utilise the park, and to see which groups of people are well served, and which are less well served, by the park as it currently stands;
- b) To examine which facilities in the park require improvement to meet the needs and expectations of those who use the park for different purposes;
- c) To explore possible future uses of the former propagation centre, and to gauge public and stakeholder interest in a range of alternative possibilities.

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<sup>2</sup> Children and Young Peoples Youth Participation Service

- 3.3 The Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall group was established during 2009 and has been a key stakeholder along with several others. They met regularly and worked with the City Council to develop a clear list of priorities for improvements. This included a stakeholder meeting in January 2010 which helped to formulate the overall objectives.
- 3.4 The primary objective is to retain the character of the Park, whilst improving its fabric elements of hard and soft landscape to create the new layouts and replace the essential public buildings
- 3.5 A sketch masterplan was formulated and also included elements of a pre-approved (Community Services Scrutiny 01/07/10) ChYpPS lottery funded project in the area surrounding the pond (creation of a wildflower meadow, seating, interpretation boards, pond dipping platform and Kingfisher reflection area).

#### **4. Consulting on the Masterplan**

4.1 Public consultation on the draft masterplan commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and closed on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The consultation was publicised prior to the period and following a press release received coverage through local media sources. The Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall delivered 2500 leaflets in the Cherry Hinton area, which also contained details of the consultation and the masterplan itself. Respondents were asked to return using one of the following methods: -

- Online by visiting the Cambridge City Council web pages;
- On site marquee days on 24<sup>th</sup> July (Cherry Hinton Community Fair – Cherry Hinton Village Centre), 21<sup>st</sup> August (Pink Festival – Cherry Hinton Hall) and 25<sup>th</sup> August (ChYpPS Big Wednesday – Cherry Hinton Hall);
- On the new Cherry Hinton Hall notice board (from 16<sup>th</sup> August - date of board installation);
- By postal return of requested questionnaire; and
- By e:mail.

A total of 288 responses were received.

#### **4.2 Consultation feedback**

There is strong support for the objectives of the Masterplan, both overall in relation to the ethos and nature of the park, and at the more detailed level. Over 90% of respondents agree at least in part with what the Masterplan is seeking to achieve, and at least half – usually more – agree fully with the stated objectives.

There is also strong agreement that the Masterplan's ideas are a good way of delivering these objectives. Between 80 and 90% of respondents agree at least partly with the Masterplan's proposals, both at the overall level and at the more detailed level; however, support is less strongly voiced in some areas.

- There is strong support for the masterplan's ideas on the pond area, services and facilities, and on footpaths;
- Full support is less forthcoming on the hall and propagation site, but the masterplan is at least partly supported by an overwhelming majority in all cases;
- The overall objective of retaining the character of the park, whilst improving its fabric, facilities and in particular biodiversity attracts strong support;
- Other ideas are forthcoming, in particular a City Farm project for which there is strong and enthusiastic support both from individuals and organisations. It is at the same time evident that this project would not be supported by the Friends Group membership; and
- Several respondents also mentioned forms of art, or space for art, as desirable.

#### 4.3 Impact of the masterplan on Cambridge Folk Festival

The current layout of the festival is such that both main and behind the scenes infrastructure as well as camping and other concession stands occupy the whole Park.

Since the demolition of the propagation units in 2007 the festival has re-configured some of its layout to make use of the current vacant space where the glasshouses used to stand. Whilst it is desirable for the Folk Festival to continue the new configuration, one of the main aims of the masterplan is to consider this area and bring this part of the park back into public use.

Arts and Recreation are responsible for the organisation of the Festival and is a key stakeholder in the process. Concerns have been raised about the masterplan proposals and potential impact on the Event. The main areas of concern relate to the proposals on the former propagation site and are as follows: -

- The proposed events space, orchard, wildflower areas, community garden area, adjoining trees, building and yard, will have an impact on ability to be able to deliver the Festival, due to restricted access and area available within the former propagation area and the loss of concrete roadway will result in increased annual costs for roadway.

- The proposed trees planting along boundaries and within main field will restrict the placement of certain infrastructure. Trees to be planted further into the field will impact on views of stage and placement of production facilities. Overall impact will be a restriction in Festival capacity.

The Folk Festival project team have raised other concerns, but these can be overcome with slight modifications and do not impact on the ability to deliver the masterplan.

#### 4.4 Proposal by City Farm

The inclusion of the City Farm proposals was added to the consultation, after drafting of the masterplan, and in response to a question raised at South Area Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The Masterplan does not therefore include any indication of the size or scale of the proposed City farm, and it does not make clear to respondents how it would impact on the available space.

Consultation on the masterplan has shown that whilst there is strong evidence to support the principles for the City Farm, Officers have reservations that the scale and nature of what is proposed have not been made fully clear at this point, and that a better understanding of what a City farm may demand in terms of space, environmental impact, and sustainability is needed.

It is therefore suggested that further feasibility work is carried out to consider the suitability of Cherry Hinton Hall and that of other sites, to accommodate a City Farm, and that Community Services Scrutiny Committee considers this at a later date.

#### 4.5 Proposed masterplan components.

It is recommended that a project appraisal be completed to include: -

- a) The removal of existing planting to the front of the Hall to open up views of the building. A historical arrangement will be restored with a gravel forecourt and parterre rose garden;
- b) Restoration of lake area to promote the biodiversity of both the water and surrounding fauna;
- c) Incorporation of pond dipping platform, seating, barbecue area and kingfisher reflection area which has pre-approved funding via the Children's and Youth Participation Service;
- d) Re-alignment of existing pathways and incorporation of new paths to the perimeter to create a circular route;
- e) To open out the central area incorporating into public space including a café facility, performance space and soft landscape;

- f) The relocation of the current toilet provision to a more appropriate and accessible position; and
- g) To further consider the current building in the centre compound and create a new community facility with the construction more in keeping with the Hall building itself.

## 5. Implications

### 5.1 Financial Implications

5.1.1 The masterplan has been provisionally costed using real measurements/ quantities and using current market prices. The masterplan costing are in two stages, full estimated costings are provided as Appendix E.

- Stage One – Seeks to address overall objective of retaining the character of the park, whilst improving its fabric elements of hard and soft landscape to create the new layouts and replace the essential public buildings
- Stage Two – Addresses the current City Council service area/yard with the suggestion of a new community building. The existing building is currently leased to the Dog Warden Service and Cambridge Employment foundation Service. This element deemed desirable rather than essential and has therefore been costed as a separate item.

5.1.2 It is envisaged that funding for the masterplan will come from a number sources including The Heritage Lottery (parks for people), WREN (landfill tax), Big Lottery (pre-approved sum available), Urban forestry, internal repairs and renewal and Section 106 for which there are pre-approved projects for the hall, which sit comfortably with some of the landscape elements of the masterplan. These are additional tree planting / spring bulbs, lake/Pond restoration, manage/enhance existing woodland/pond/watercourses.

Subject to a fully costed project appraisal the pre-approved section 106 ideas outlined above can also be delivered. The internal repairs and renewal budget will enable street furniture across the site to be installed.

It is anticipated that when further funding is secured via grant applications other elements such as pathway re-configuration, reinstatement of Victorian landscape garden frontage/wall and public amenity buildings (Café and toilets) can be delivered. There will also be the potential to consider further the larger scale buildings in the

service yard area which are currently a desirable second phase to the project.

## 5.2 Staffing Implications

None currently identified

## 5.3 Equal Opportunities Implications

An equal opportunities impact assessment will be completed for the project.

## 5.5 Community Safety Implications

None

## 6. Background papers

These following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Cherry Hinton Hall Masterplan Consultation by Phil Back Associates, September 2010
- Understanding Needs and Usage by Phil Back Associates, January 2009
- The draft masterplan

## 7. Appendices

Appendix A - Masterplan

Appendix B - Cambridge City Farm and Community Garden proposal

Appendix C – Future of Cherry Hinton Hall – Consultation on the Masterplan September 2010

Appendix D - Key Outcomes from report “Understanding needs & usage” January 2009

Appendix E - Provisional estimates for Masterplan work

## 8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Alistair Wilson

Author's Phone Number: 01223 - 457000

Author's Email: [Alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk)

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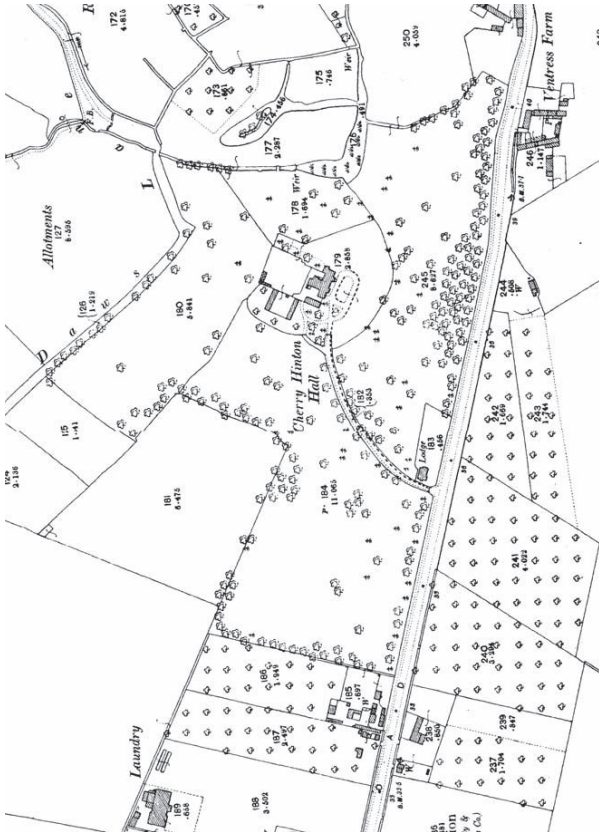




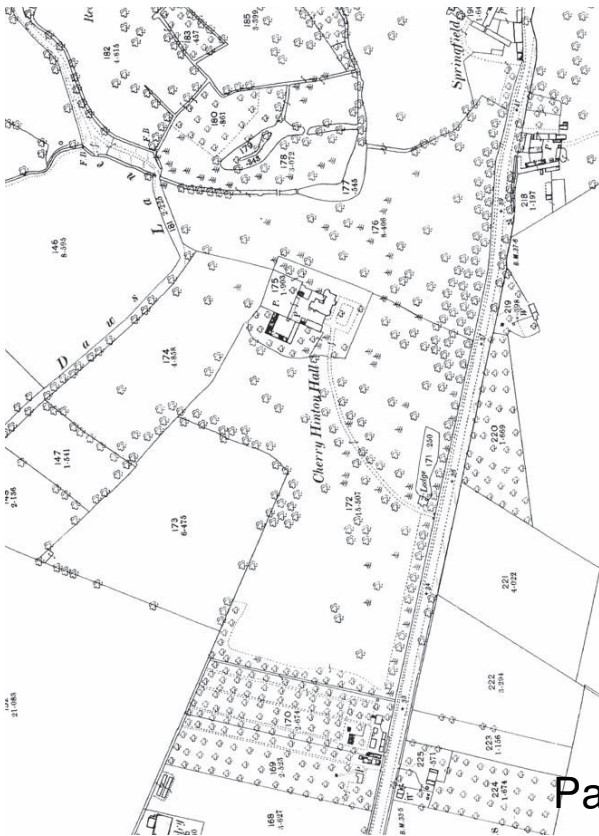
Landscape Sketch Proposal  
ref: 519\_01(RP)001 P3  
March 2010

## Cherry Hinton Hall

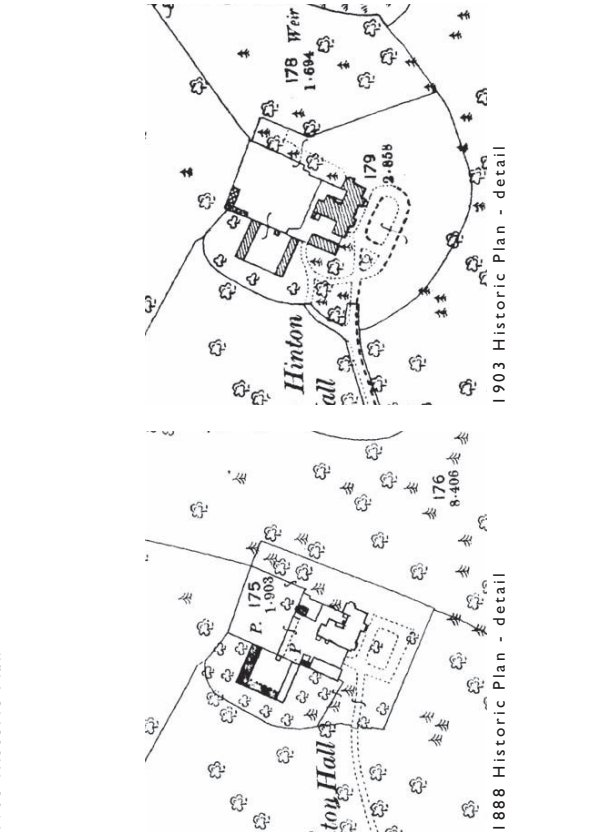
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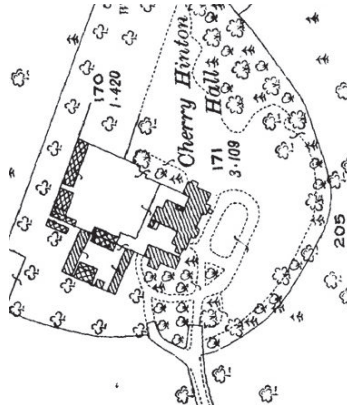
1903 Historic Plan



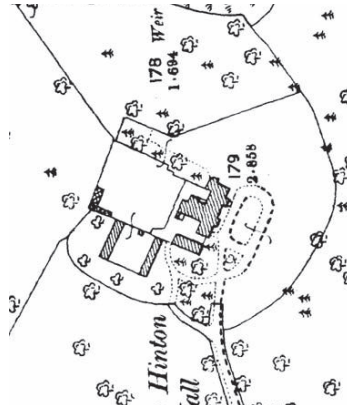
1888 Historic Plan



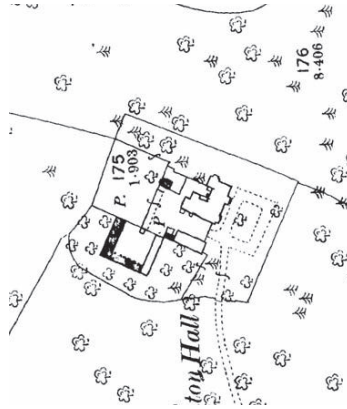
1927 Historic Plan



1927 Historic Plan - detail



1903 Historic Plan - detail



1888 Historic Plan - detail



## Design Concept

### The Masterplan Aims:

- To retain the existing character and uses of the park, whilst improving its fabric, facilities and biodiversity.
- To restore the historic setting of the Hall building and recreate the sense of a residence within a parkland. To improve the visibility of the Hall by removing the dense planting on its South side, and restore something of the original carriage sweep and formal planting, possibly a rose garden.
- To develop the former propagation centre area as a public space at the heart of the park, incorporating a flexible events space, and areas of orchard, wildflower areas and community gardening spaces relating to the former walled gardens of the Hall.
- To improve the quality of the spaces around the weir and improve conditions for paddling, pond-dipping etc.
- To improve seating and access to the water in this important 'hub' area.
- To connect disparate parts of the park with paths and planting, including a circuit route around the park.
- To improve the legibility of paths and routes, cater for 'destination' and simplify the path network.
- To address the provision of WCs and possibly catering concessions across the site, responding to the patterns of use.
- To improve the structure, quality and diversity of the existing woodlands, hedges and tree belts, thinning out where necessary, and adding understory planting and coppice.
- To improve the ecological and visual condition of the ponds area. To dredge the water bodies of silt and remove overhanging vegetation. To thin and replant the woodland areas as necessary to retain biodiversity and structure, and remove ivy from trees. Create glades by opening up the canopy in places. To add aquatic planting to the ponds to improve water quality and soften the engineered pond edges.
- To rationalise seating provision and improve the quality of benches. To improve signage and interpretation and install new litter bins, a dedicated barbecue area etc.

Existing ponds to be cleared out and woodland improved by removing ivy from trees, noxious weeds, selective thinning of trees and re-planting native trees and understory shrubs. Remove overhanging vegetation from ponds to reduce leaf fall into water (to be agreed with City Council ecologist).

Proposed new seating and relaid paving around pool.

Thin existing tree planting to open up stream, improve water clarity and encourage pond dipping

Proposed tree planting Barbecue area

Line of Existing fence/hedge

Paths realigned

Proposed trees along boundary

Proposed path with seating

Clear ivy and rejuvenate hedgerow

Selectively thin existing tree belts to allow best trees to thrive and underplant underplant with Hazel and Hawthorn etc (Coppice).

Tree planting to screen houses

Pond dipping platform

Vista to proposed artwork/sculpture area

Long grass/bulbs wildflower areas

Gravel/hoggin circuit path

Existing planting removed to open views of house. Historic arrangement restored, with gravel forecourt and parterre or rose garden

Existing shelterbelts to be selectively thinned (to be agreed with City Council arboriculturist)

Paths re-aligned to suit desire lines

Add cycle parking in carpark

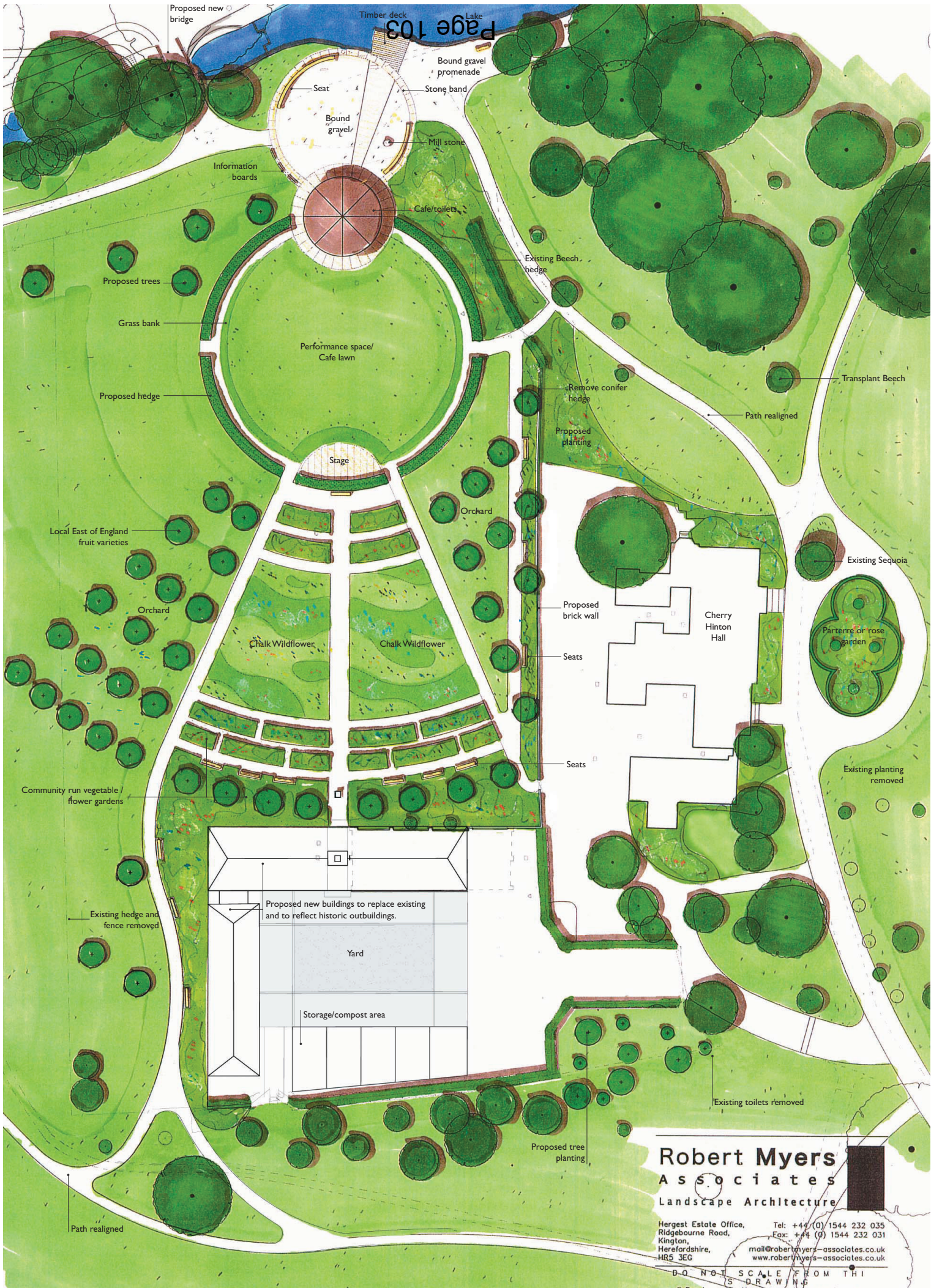
Access to recycling centre

Existing play area

Proposed small trees on mound

Existing Tennis Court





Proposed new bridge

Timber deck

Lake

Bound gravel promenade

Seat

Stone band

Bound gravel

Mill stone

Information boards

Cafe/toilets

Proposed trees

Grass bank

Performance space/  
Cafe lawn

Proposed hedge

Existing Beech hedge

Remove conifer hedge

Proposed planting

Path realigned

Transplant Beech

Stage

Local East of England fruit varieties

Orchard

Orchard

Chalk Wildflower

Chalk Wildflower

Proposed brick wall

Cherry Hinton Hall

Seats

Existing Sequoia

Parterre or rose garden

Community run vegetable flower gardens

Orchard

Seats

Existing planting removed

Existing hedge and fence removed

Proposed new buildings to replace existing and to reflect historic outbuildings.

Yard

Storage/compost area

Existing toilets removed

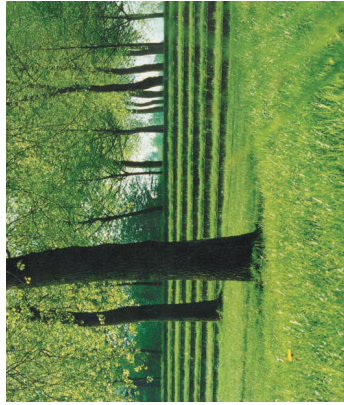
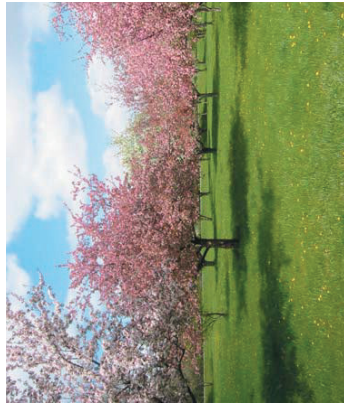
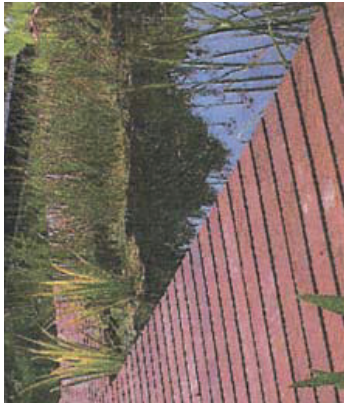
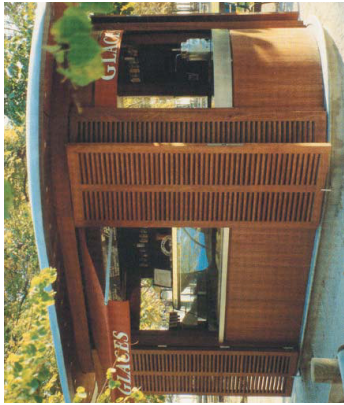
Proposed tree planting

Path realigned

**Robert Myers Associates**  
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DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING  
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# Cambridge City Farm and Community Garden

## Sustainable education creating sustainable community

### Proposal

Create and operate a vibrant and active City Farm and Community Garden on the currently disused propagation centre site in Cherry Hinton Hall.

### What would it be like?

- A small-scale farm, providing visitors with the chance to observe and interact with animals in a safe environment.
- Demonstration gardens: containers, square-foot gardens, small gardens, allotments, providing examples and inspiration of how food can be grown at home and locally.
- Courses and workshops: Beginners vegetable growing, seed sowing, “plot to plate”, composting, seed saving, chicken rearing and keeping, organic gardening, etc, aimed at all ages.
- Schools, youth groups and other groups visiting and learning about food growing and other environmental issues and helping with the care of the animals and crops.
- A community vegetable garden, for small-scale production of food by local residents.
- Community meals, using produce from the garden.



### Why is Cherry Hinton Hall's old propagation centre an ideal site?

The site is within 10-15 minutes walk of 7 primary schools and 3 secondary schools.

The park is already a popular destination, in a residential area, so there are many passing visitors.

The site has a good boundary fence and is already set apart from the rest of the park.

Most of the ground area is soil and has not been previously concreted or built on.

Cherry Hinton Hall already offers excellent visitor facilities (toilets, play areas, cycle parking, etc) so this would not need separate provision in the City Farm.

### How can this be achieved?

The site could be transformed over the course of a few weekends with 20-30 volunteers, with only a very modest financial outlay. The initial work would involve clearing of weeds and a small amount of stored council equipment, the digging over of the demonstration areas and community garden area, and, depending on the time of year, sowing seeds and planting fruit trees and bushes. During this period we would apply for grants and donations from various sources for the installation of animal fencing and housing, and for developing the educational aspects of the project. Members of the groups proposing this project already have links with local farmers, businesses, youth groups, schools, and potential workshop leaders, and we would expect as this project starts to come to fruition that many individuals and local groups would want to partner with it in different ways.



“The Council should...develop initiatives that provide opportunities for young people in the city to have constructive activities to take part in”  
*Cambridge City Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2009-2013*

### The future

In the future (2-3 years from now) we would aim to be working successfully with groups and services such as the education authority, social services, local schools, colleges, and hospitals, etc. to provide a safe work experience and horticultural training to vulnerable members of the community. This would have the potential to be the major funding source for the city farm. We also plan to link this project to the growing number of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects in and around Cambridge, both for providing locally-grown food to the CSA schemes, and educating visitors about CSA schemes and linking them up with a CSA scheme near them.



We also aim to educate visitors on other environmental/sustainability issues, such as energy, and would aim to showcase small-scale projects such as solar power generation/heating, rainwater harvesting, and wind energy.

**Case study – Heeley City Farm, Sheffield**

Started in 1981, the City Farm in Sheffield now is a hugely popular free attraction, with a large team of staff and volunteers helping to run farming, growing and environmental projects on 3 sites across the city. Courses run most days. The farm runs a café serving produce grown on site, and particularly focuses on providing training and employment opportunities for marginalised and disadvantaged people, which forms a significant part of their income. [www.heeleyfarm.org.uk](http://www.heeleyfarm.org.uk)

**Case study – People’s community garden, Ipswich**

Started with a Lottery award in 2007, the garden now has 4 part-time members of staff, and inspires people to grow food and engage in healthy outdoor exercise, running courses from growing herbs, to willow weaving! [www.townandbridge.org.uk/garden/](http://www.townandbridge.org.uk/garden/)

**Who are we?**

The project is proposed by the following local groups:

Christians Together in Cherry Hinton is a partnership between Cherry Hinton Baptist Church and St Barnabas Church, running many events and services in the local Cherry Hinton community, such as youth groups, parent and toddler groups, and social action projects such as gardening and decorating.

Transition Cambridge is a group of volunteers dedicated to creating a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable future for Cambridge, in the face of the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change.

**Outline budget and sources of funding**

Initial site set-up costs (approx)

internal fencing	£2000
animal housing	£3000
path edging/beds	£2000
secure storage	£2000
seeds/plants	£400
community tools	£400
polytunnel & staging	£800

Ongoing costs /year

Staff	£50000	
Animal feed	£800	
Seeds/plants	£200	
Utilities	£500	
Admin/insurance etc.	£5000	
Site enhancements (eg. fruit “tunnel”, demonstration gardens)		£5000

“Provide a more diverse range of green spaces that cater for people’s social, educational and physical needs and changing lifestyles. This includes city farms and community gardens...”  
*Cambridge City Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2009-2013*

**Funding sources**

- Donations, including optional entry fees and a “friends” scheme.
- Grants: Sustainable City, Lottery, local businesses.
- Partners (eg. Care farming, education authority)
- Volunteers
- Sales of plants and vegetables
- Course fees
- Sponsorship, for example “adopt a goat”!



**Contact**

[info@cambridge-city-farm.org.uk](mailto:info@cambridge-city-farm.org.uk)



# **The Future of Cherry Hinton Hall**

## ***Consultation on the Masterplan***



## **A consultation report for Cambridge City Council**

**By Phil Back Associates Ltd**

**September 2010**

Phil Back Associates  
Boston House  
212-214 High Street  
Boston Spa  
WETHERBY  
LS23 6AD

# Cherry Hinton Hall Masterplan proposals 2010

## Summary and conclusions

1. There is strong support for the objectives of the Masterplan. Three quarters of respondents fully support the overall objective of the masterplan, which has to do with conserving the ethos and character of the park whilst improving its fabric, facilities, and biodiversity. Almost everyone else is in partial agreement with this objective.
2. Full support for the stated objectives of the Masterplan for each area of the park is never less than 50% of the response. There is especially strong support for the Masterplan proposals in relation to the wildlife of the park, the pond area, and improving services and facilities such as toilets, bins and dog bins, all of which attract full support from at least three-quarters of all those responding. Support for the Masterplan's objectives on footpaths and on the landscape of the hall is also strong.
3. There is majority support, but more caution, in relation to the Masterplan's proposals for the hall area and for the former propagation centre. In each case, around half support the Masterplan objectives, and most of the remainder support in part.
4. Support for the Masterplan's proposals to achieve these objectives is also strong. Overall, just under half fully support the Masterplan, and 87% support at least part of the Masterplan.
5. Support for the delivery envisaged by the Masterplan is highest in the pond area, where two thirds of respondents fully support the proposals, and on the footpaths, which are supported by over 60%. Full agreement with the Masterplan is less evident in the hall buildings and the former propagation centre, but even here over 40% fully support, and over 80% at least partly support.
6. Outright disagreement with anything suggested by or contained in the Masterplan is very small. The Masterplan appears to have captured, by and large, what people value about this site and what would be acceptable to them as a way of improving the site without damaging its current ethos and value.

7. The main area of difficulty with the Masterplan as it currently stands, and the one which may be giving rise to qualified acceptance of the Plan on the part of many people, is the proposal for a City Farm on the former propagation site. This idea has strong support both from individuals and organisations, and attracts a good deal of positive comment, stressing the educational and cohesion benefits of such a scheme as well as its attractiveness as an additional feature of the park. Advocates include several faith and charitable groups, and others working with communities of disadvantage.
  
8. Objectors to the City Farm are in a minority, but objection is much stronger than to any aspect of the Masterplan itself. Objectors note the impracticability of the idea, its incompatibility with other uses of the space, and that it detracts from the Masterplan and the underlying ethos of the park that the Plan seeks to embody. Objectors include the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall, a voluntary group set up to promote the care and conservation of the park for local people and visitors alike.
  
9. A second, less strongly voiced but nonetheless present, difficulty with both the Masterplan and the City Farm is the continuity of the Cambridge Folk Festival. Folk festival-goers seek reassurance, rather than making outright objections.
  
10. We conclude that the Masterplan has found wide acceptance and could be adopted on this basis. However, the City Farm idea has strong support and cannot be ignored just because it does not feature in the Masterplan. The Masterplan, nevertheless, has been developed by landscape professionals and its ideas and suggestions are tested against that professional understanding. The City Farm idea has not been tested in that way, but the level of support for it, and the strength of objection, suggest that such a test should be undertaken. We therefore recommend that a feasibility study should be undertaken, to see whether a City Farm is feasible within a reasonable footprint in Cherry Hinton Hall, and to determine what the effect of this on the Masterplan generally, and its underlying principles, would be.

**Phil Back**  
**Wetherby**  
**September 2010**

## **Introduction and methodology**

Cherry Hinton Hall is an important public park in the east of Cambridge, centred on a historic former residence and incorporating the open parkland surrounding it. The park provides an important local facility to residents in the heavily populated Cherry Hinton area of Cambridge, but also attracts a city-wide audience because of its attractiveness as a largely natural open space, and at certain times of year a national audience when it hosts major events such as the renowned Cambridge Folk Festival, and the Pink Festival.

Cambridge City Council, which owns and manages the site, has been working for some time on improving the park, to deal with some longstanding problems, and to bring it to a standard that befits its role in the city's pantheon of parks. An initial consultation took place in 2008 to consider some options for the future of the site, and particularly focussed on an area of derelict land within the park where the City's Propagation Centre formerly operated. This and other feedback was then put to a specialist landscape architect, Robert Miles, who drew up a Masterplan to provide a picture of possible improvements to the park which would address the issues raised in the consultation and remain consistent with the Council's existing open spaces strategy and values.

This Masterplan was then put out for consultation using a short questionnaire, a copy of which is provided as an appendix to this report. The questionnaire was made available in several ways: copies were available from the Council directly; it could be downloaded from the Council website for completion; copies were made available at key events associated with the park, including the Pink Festival, the Folk Festival, and a local gala day; and the questionnaire was also available for completion online. The masterplan was also available for viewing online and at the events. The consultation was widely publicised in the local media, on the Council website, and also in a leaflet produced by the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall and distributed to households throughout the area. It was also promoted by the advocates of the City Farm on their website. The response pattern, and the nature of those responses, suggest that the presence of the City Farm issue within the consultation is a major factor in people's participation.

A total of 290 completed questionnaires were received by the closing date. On examination, two of these were found to be duplicates of other questionnaires, in that they contained the same information with (in one case) the same comments using the same wording, and (in the other) the same handwriting and personal details. In each instance only one questionnaire has been admitted for analysis, leaving 288 eligible responses. These have now been analysed and the detailed results are presented in this report.

## 1 Respondent profile

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were responding as private individuals or on behalf of a group of some description. Of the 288 replies, 247 identified themselves as private individuals, with 30 claiming to reply on behalf of a group or organisation, and 3 in some other capacity (local companies and a volunteer). Many of those claiming to represent the views of a group did so either on behalf of the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall, or on behalf of one of the organisations campaigning for a city farm at this site.

The age of those responding is given here:

Age-group	Proportion of respondents
25 or under	4%
26-44	45%
45-64	37%
65-79	13%
80 or over	2%

The age profile of those taking part in this consultation is heavily weighted towards the middle age ranges, and focuses largely on people of working age. The consultation has been less effective in reaching younger adults or teenagers. Older people are much less likely to take part in consultation and the presence of a low proportion of elderly people is quite normal in a consultation of this type.

The gender split of respondents is provided here:

Gender	Proportion of respondents
Male	38%
Female	62%

Women outnumber men in this consultation by three to two. It is not uncommon for this to happen in consultation, but it does mean we need to explore any gender difference in people's views rather than accepting the majority verdict outright.

This table shows the proportions of respondents with children at home:

Children	Proportion of respondents
Children at home	40%
No children at home	60%

Two in five of those responding have children living at home with them. Again, this is potentially an important dimension to be considered in evaluating the answers people give to the consultation.

We asked people to indicate their ethnic origin; the response is overwhelmingly white (95%), with a very small number of people from other ethnic backgrounds, amounting to 5% of the total.

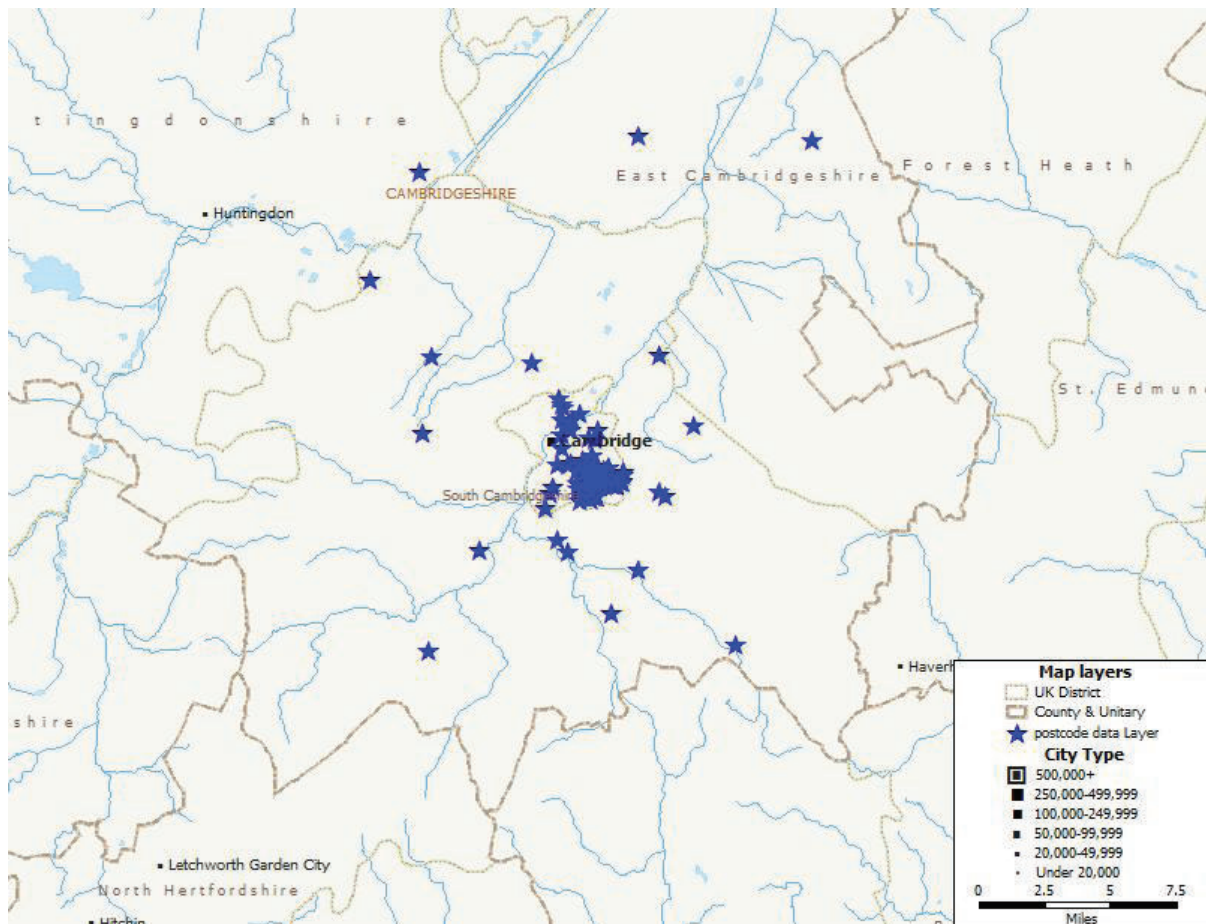
We also asked about people’s disabilities:

Disability	Proportion of respondents
No disability	94%
Disability	6%

A small proportion of respondents have a disability that affects their use or enjoyment of open spaces, but the majority of respondents do not.

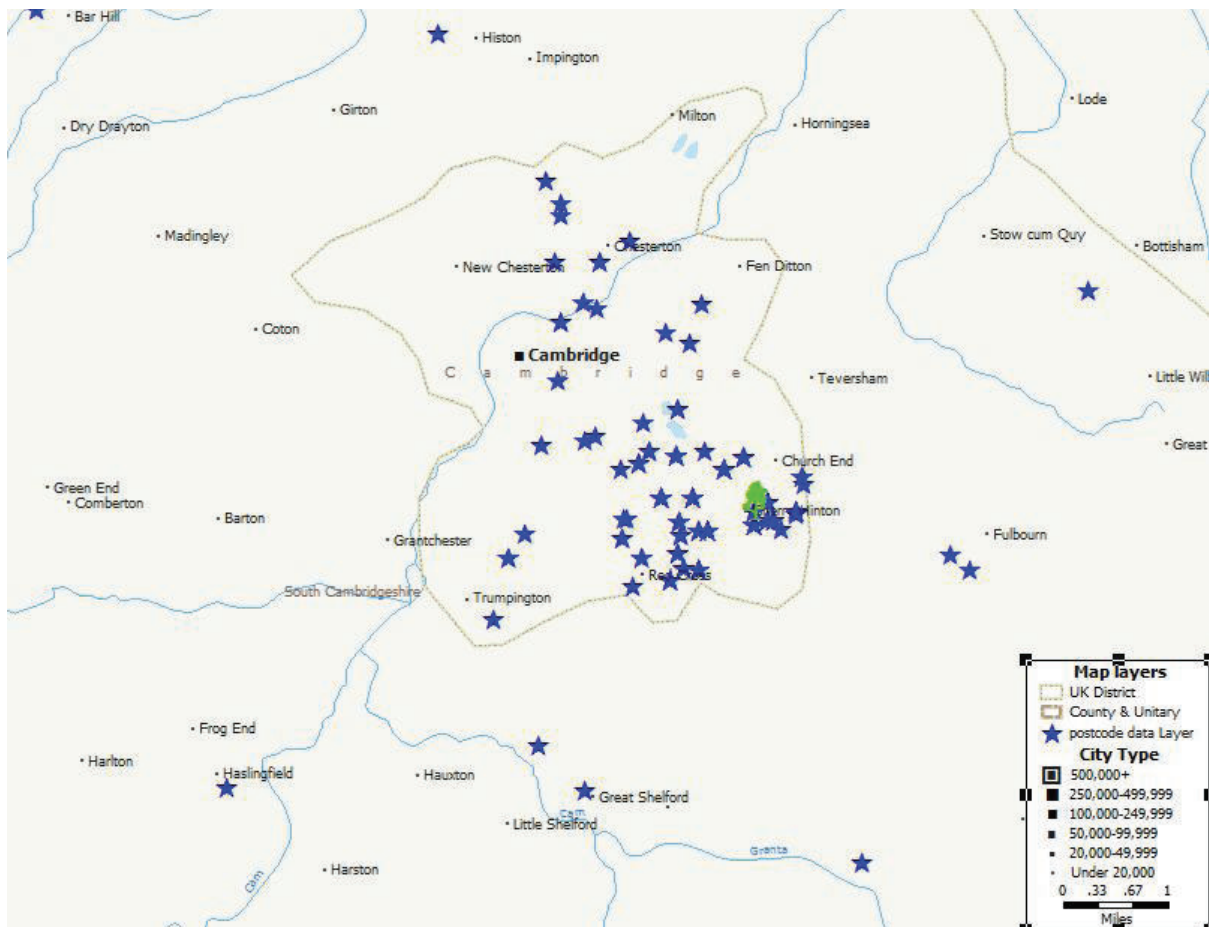
## Geography

Most respondents provided a postcode, and this map shows how these are distributed.



Although there are respondents from far afield, the greatest concentration of postcodes is in Cambridge itself, so most of those responding are reasonably local residents. One respondent lives in Cleethorpes, but claims to visit family in the area on a regular basis.

The next map looks more closely at the distribution of postcodes across the city itself:

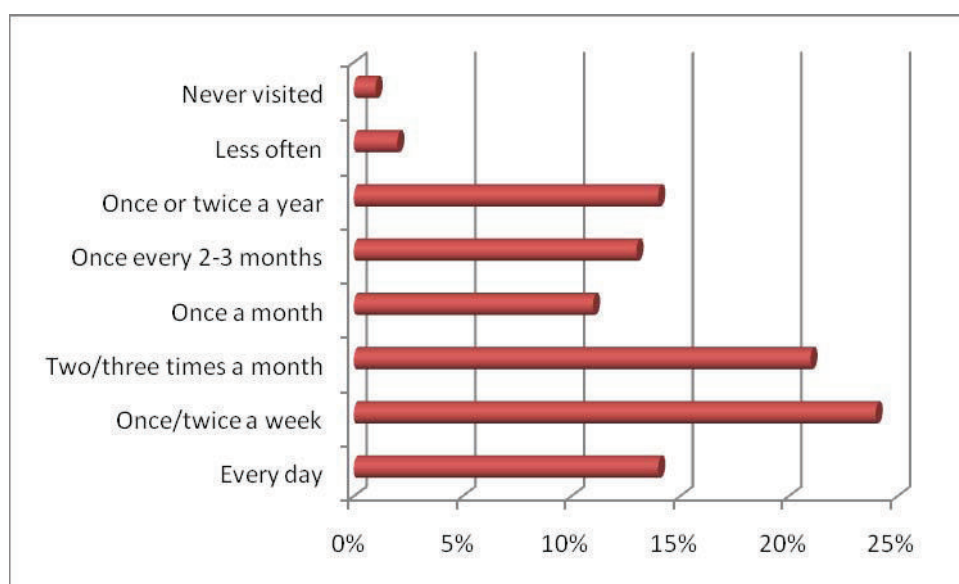


Respondents include a substantial proportion of people who live in the east and south of the city area, and there is a particular concentration around the site of the park (marked with the green tree). There are also a large number of respondents in the south of the city generally, from the Romsey and Queen Edith areas. Nevertheless people from other parts of the city also visit Cherry Hinton Hall, including residents of Trumpington and Arbury as well as those living more locally.

### 3 Visiting

Those who responded as individuals were asked how often they visit the Hall, with these results:

Frequency of visiting Cherry Hinton Hall	Proportion of respondents
Every day	14%
Once/twice a week	24%
Two/three times a month	21%
Once a month	11%
Once every 2-3 months	13%
Once or twice a year	14%
Less often	2%
Never visited	1%



Most respondents have a close relationship with the Hall. One in seven visits every day, so the hall is a highly significant feature of their daily existence, and altogether two in five (38%) visit at least once a week, with three in five (59%) visiting at least once every two weeks.

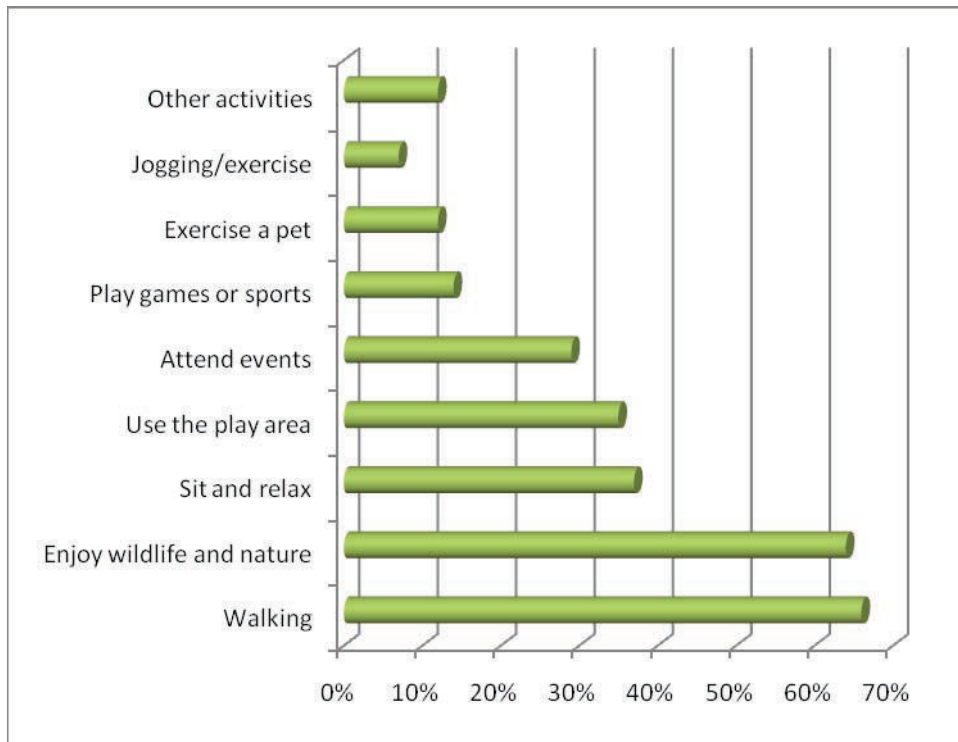
A quarter of respondents are less frequent visitors, using Cherry Hinton Hall between 3 and twelve times a year, and the respondent profile also includes a sixth of respondents (17%) who visit less often than that, including a very small number who have never visited.

It is, of course, perfectly valid for those who visit rarely to comment alongside those for whom this is an everyday park; but it is also instructive to separate the view of frequent and occasional visitors to examine differences in perspective.

The activities people engage in while visiting are listed here:



Activity	Proportion of respondents
Walking	66%
Enjoy wildlife and nature	64%
Sit and relax	37%
Use the play area	35%
Attend events	29%
Play games or sports	14%
Exercise a pet	12%
Jogging/exercise	7%
Other activities	12%



The most popular activity these people engage in is simply going for a walk, and the park is certainly seen as a very attractive and suitable environment for this kind of exercise. A similar proportion, again about two thirds, go the Cherry Hinton to enjoy the wildlife and nature the park offers; a mix of environments in the park means that this can include ducks and wildfowl, birds, small mammals and even an occasional deer or fox, and insect life in a variety of different habitats. Whilst the natural world is often a strong pull towards an open space, it is surprising to find an urban park with such a high level of wildlife and nature interest.

Other activities lag some way behind these two in importance. Over a third of people come to the Hall to sit and relax, and a similar proportion to use the play facilities in the park. Events in the park attract their own audiences and over a quarter of people say they visit the

hall for this kind of activity, notably the Folk Festival and the Pink Festival which coincided with the consultation period.

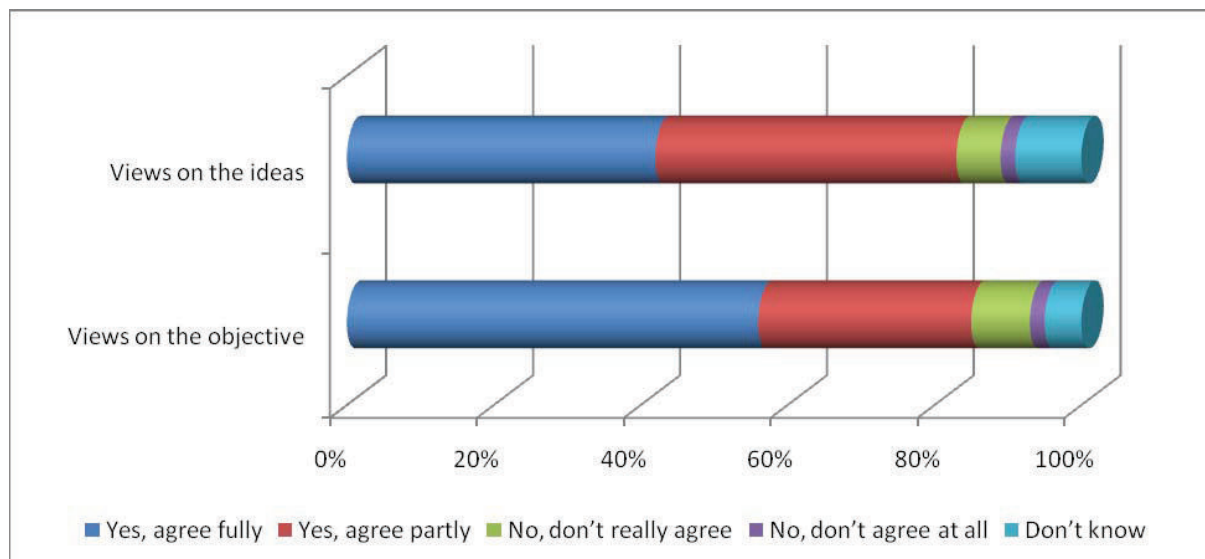
Other activities are less popular with this group. Participation in sports and games is more limited – just one in seven do this – and the landscape of the hall, and its formal sport provision, do not lend themselves to open air sport in the way that some of the city's other parks do. The proportion using the hall for exercising a pet seems low in comparison to other sites, and the small numbers visiting the site for jogging may be a commentary on the lack of a circular route, which means that joggers can really only pass through rather than spending time here.

#### 4 The hall buildings

The Masterplan proposals for the hall buildings are based on the idea that the hall should be restored to its former setting as a historic building within parkland. The masterplan therefore focuses on improving the visibility of the building, making it a focal point visually for the site, and also restoring some of the formal Victorian layout at the front of the hall. There are no proposals in the Masterplan that would affect the current use of the hall as an international school.

People were asked two questions here: do they agree with the objective for this area, and secondly do they think the Masterplan proposals are a good way of delivering that objective? Their answers are summarised in this table:

Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the objective	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	56%	42%
Yes, agree partly	29%	41%
No, don't really agree	8%	6%
No, don't agree at all	2%	2%
Don't know	5%	9%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	256	244



The objective of restoring the hall to its historic centrepiece role attracts a good deal of support. Well over half of respondents agree fully with this as an objective, and 85% support this objective at least in part. Only one in ten (10%) disagree with the objective stated here.

Disagreement with the objective is mainly concentrated in the 26-44 age-group, where around 15% of respondents disagree – still a minority view. Those who only agree partly

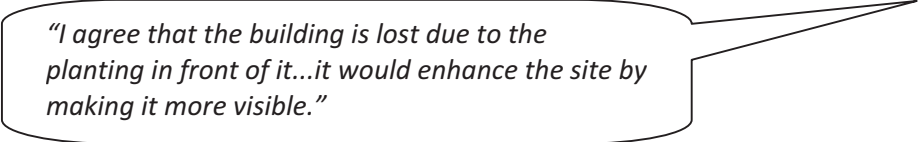
with the objective are also concentrated in the working age groups. There are no significant differences between the views of men and women on this objective. However, those who visit the hall most often are the most positive about the objectives.

There is also strong support for the Masterplan as the way forward, although the views here are a little more cautious. A total of 42% agree fully with the Masterplan, and altogether 83% agree at least in part that the Masterplan proposals for this area are sound. Here just one in twelve (8%) dislike what is proposed in the Masterplan. Again, though, the most frequent visitors are the most enthusiastic supporters of the Masterplan.

Disagreement with the Masterplan ideas is scattered across all age and gender groups, but hesitant agreement is found in both the working age-groups and the 65-79s.

Although there is a consensus of broad support here, it is helpful to look at people's comments, both to see why they like these ideas and where the hesitancy in some support may be rooted.

Supporters of the plans draw attention to the need to enhance the setting of the hall by making it more visible. Although the hall is not a listed building, it is historic in nature and supporters see it as a definite asset to the park.



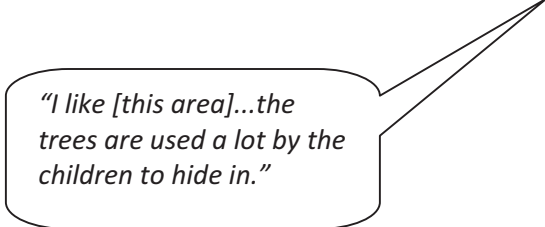
*"I agree that the building is lost due to the planting in front of it...it would enhance the site by making it more visible."*

Those who are more hesitant about their support have four main concerns that the Council needs to consider.

The first is that some people like the present layout at the front of the hall, which consists of flower beds and established evergreens. They enjoy and value this and would be sorry to see it passing. It is also part of the enjoyment of a visit to the hall for some.

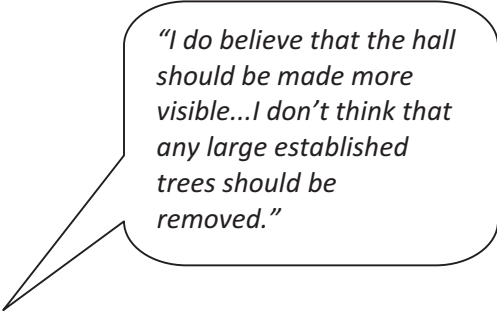


*"The existing flower beds and seating area is a nice spot to sit and relax...I don't think removing this area ...would be of any real benefit."*

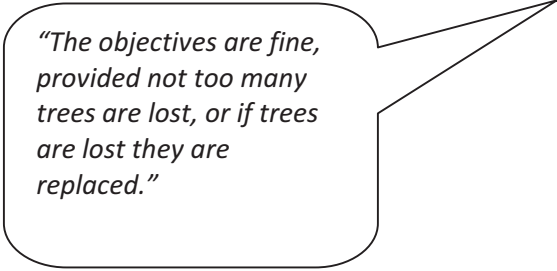


*"I like [this area]...the trees are used a lot by the children to hide in."*

A second reason for more cautious support is a fear that "opening up" the view of the hall could result in the removal of trees. It is not always clear from comments whether people are referring to the evergreens in the vicinity of the hall, or other trees around the site which might obscure the view of the hall, but several people are clearly concerned about this and need some reassurance on the point.

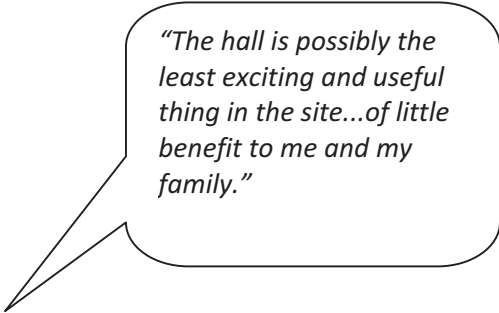


*"I do believe that the hall should be made more visible...I don't think that any large established trees should be removed."*

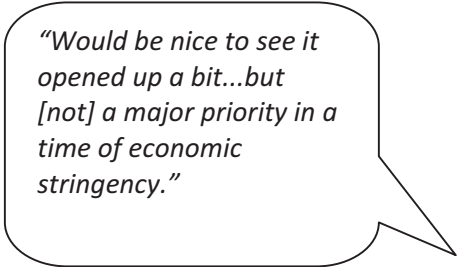


*"The objectives are fine, provided not too many trees are lost, or if trees are lost they are replaced."*

Some of those who are giving cautious support do so because they do not see the hall as a priority. Although the Masterplan offers a coherent "whole site" approach, some people suspect that in reality the funds will not be available to deliver the whole project, and under these circumstances the hall is not the most important area where change is needed.



*"The hall is possibly the least exciting and useful thing in the site...of little benefit to me and my family."*



*"Would be nice to see it opened up a bit...but [not] a major priority in a time of economic stringency."*

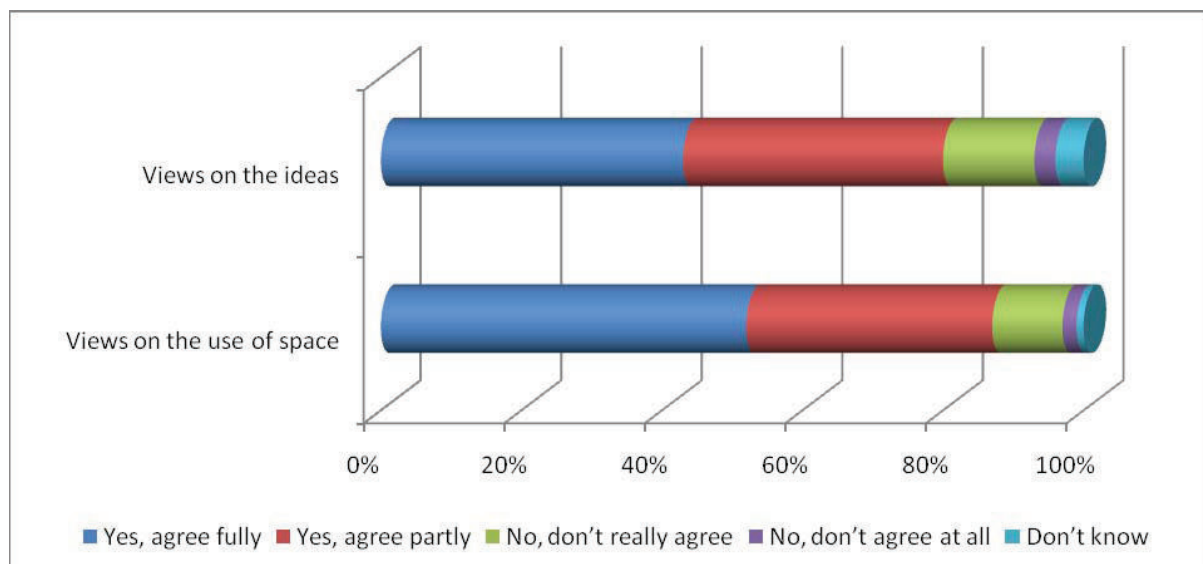
The fourth concern expressed by people concerns the future of the Folk Festival. This seems to be a more general concern about the Masterplan as a whole, rather than the Hall proposals specifically, but some people take this opportunity to express worries that the masterplan will somehow damage, or eliminate, the Folk Festival from the site.

## 5 The former propagation site

The former propagation site is a largely derelict area where the Council's propagation centre once stood. It could also be understood to include an area which is currently used as a small storage depot for the City Council. This area is not at present accessible to the public, though it is visible to park users. The Masterplan proposes to incorporate this area into the wider park, and makes the space into an events area, accompanied by a wildflower area, an orchard, and a community garden; there is also the possibility of creating a small catering facility, and toilets, in this area.

People were asked firstly whether they agree with this use of the derelict space, and secondly whether they think the Masterplan proposals are a good way of delivering that objective. Their answers are summarised in this table:

Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the use of space	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	52%	43%
Yes, agree partly	35%	37%
No, don't really agree	10%	13%
No, don't agree at all	2%	3%
Don't know	1%	4%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	246	238

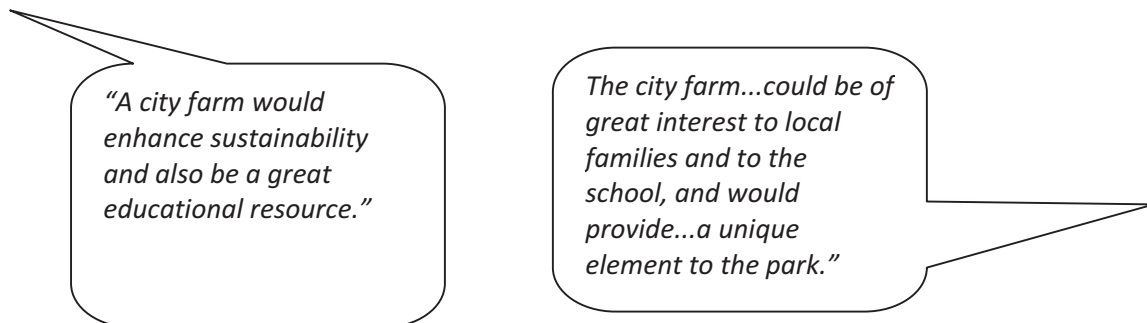


As far as the overall objective is concerned, there is considerable support for the way the derelict space is used in the Masterplan. Over half of those responding support this objective fully, and most of the rest support it at least in part. In contrast, just one in eight people (12%) disagree.

Support arises in all age-groups, with full support accounting for at least half of the responses in all but the 45-64 age-group, and those who disagree very much in a minority across the board. Men are a little more enthusiastic than women about the objectives. However, people with children, while supportive of the Masterplan, are more cautious and divide evenly between those who support fully and those who support partly. The more frequent visitors are also more supportive than those who only visit occasionally; those who are more cautious about this part of the plan, and those who disagree, are mainly occasional or rare visitors to the park.

The comment space helps in understanding these views, and comments in this area of the Masterplan tend to focus on specific aspects of the proposals which people either support or object to.

The main area of comment is around a city farm proposal which emerged after the Masterplan had already been prepared. Quite a number of comments question why this suggestion has been left off the Masterplan (which seems to be entirely because of the timing of the Masterplan preparation), while others conflate the suggestion of a community garden into a possible city farm, probably on a larger scale. There are many other comments about the city farm proposal later in this report (when it is specifically raised in the questionnaire, and is discussed extensively in additional comment) but at this point a large number of those commenting are strongly supportive of the idea, drawing attention to the value of such a use of space as an educational as well as an entertainment resource, and to the added value of a unique attraction not available in other city parks.



Others draw attention to the value of a City Farm as an all-year resource, in contrast to a community garden which might only be attractive in the spring and summer; there is also the repeated observation that the community garden is too small to allow any educational outcome, in contrast to the City Farm proposals which are on a more suitable scale.

*"The community garden idea is too small to be useful...the City farm would make a better use of the space."*

*"I support the expansion of this idea into the bigger concept of a City Farm."*

Support for the City Farm certainly dominates the discussion of this issue, but there are objectors to this idea too, though they are a minority view.

*"I strongly hope that the City Farm will not be put [here]...Cherry Hinton Hall is not a suitable place for this."*

*"I do not want anything that resembles a farm! Leave it flowers and open space."*

The City Farm is not the only issue, though, that people want to comment on. The cafe idea certainly also attracts attention, and people who support it note the possibility of generating revenue from an outlet that could go back into the park, as well as providing an amenity that they would value. There are several people, though, who are more sceptical, and who draw attention to the possibility of increased litter, and the encouragement of vermin.

*"A quality cafe...is currently the real missing point...something that major parks...offer."*

*"A cafe or tea room...something that is missing in the park and the area."*

The viability of a cafe is an issue, though, and might limit opening to summer only – unless, as someone points out, the City Farm draws a year-round audience who also need to be catered for. Its location is also questioned, not least the potential for disturbing the wildfowl at this side of the park.

The orchard and the wildflower area also have both supporters and detractors. The orchard, while welcomed in some quarters, raises questions about illicit harvesting; a wildflower meadow, again welcomed by some, is seen as unnecessary by others given the proximity of genuinely wild natural areas nearby in the Gogs.



Aside from the suggested contents of this area, questions are raised about the financial viability and sustainability of the proposals, and the need to be sure that the Council's resources are being deployed sensibly, and that the revenue cost of maintenance to the standard necessary can be sustained into the foreseeable future. Security is also a concern for some, who draw attention to the vandalism and other security issues that have been a problem at this and other sites in the past; one commentator suggests that the City Farm might help here by providing a measure of informal oversight that is currently missing.

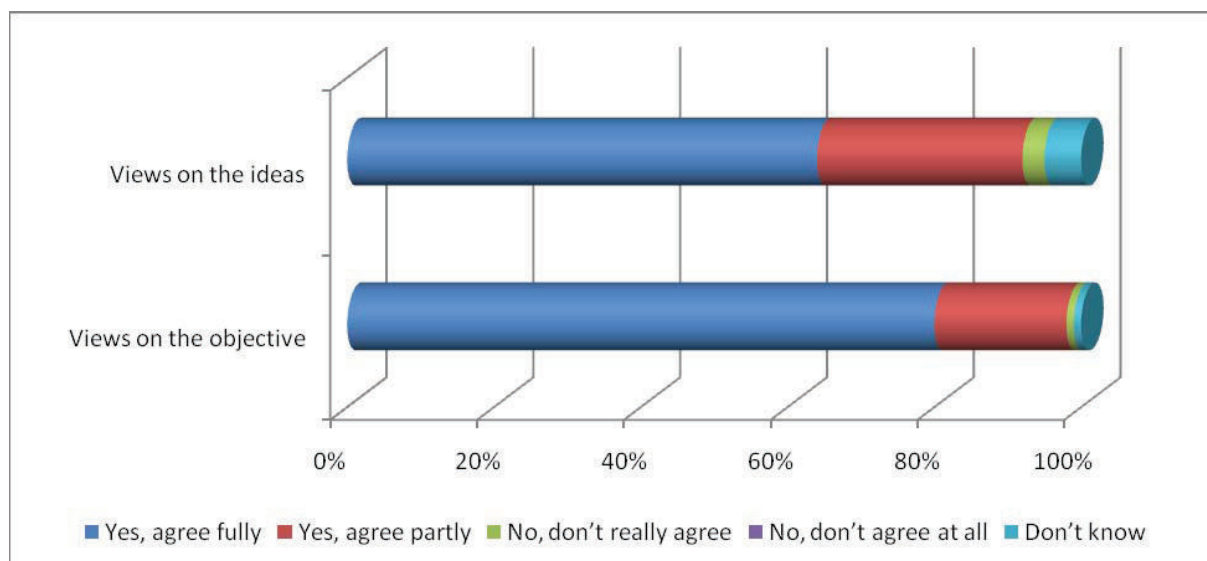
Finally, there are questions raised under this heading about whether some of these plans (and perhaps particularly the City Farm idea) are compatible with the preservation of the Folk Festival and its spatial requirements.

## 6 The pond area

The Masterplan for the pond area starts by recognising the current poor condition of this part of the park. It includes proposals to clear away the litter and debris in this area, improve the quality of the water, and improve the adjoining seating area with new surfacing, bins and seating. It also aims to accrete a place for sitting, relaxing, and play, including paddling.

The questionnaire explores agreement or otherwise with this objective, and with the Masterplan ideas, and the results of this are shown below:

Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the objective	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	80%	64%
Yes, agree partly	18%	28%
No, don't really agree	1%	3%
No, don't agree at all	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	5%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>241</i>

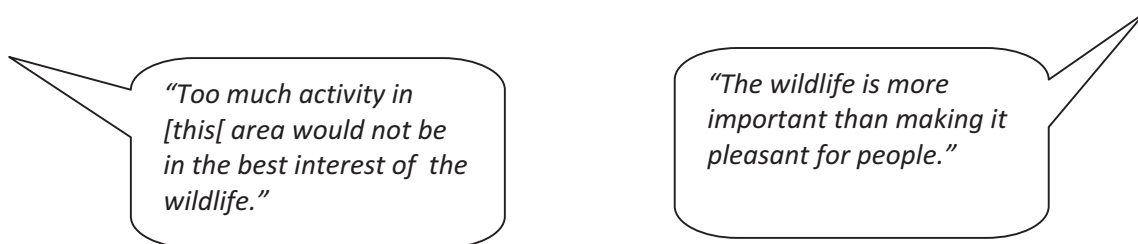


There is almost universal approval of the overall Masterplan in this area. Four out of five people agree with the objective here, and almost everyone else agrees to some extent; virtually nobody opposes the plan in this section of the park.

Agreement ranges across all age-groups, and both genders, and is equally shared by those with children at home and those with none. To the extent that there is caution about the Masterplan, though, it is focussed among the most frequent visitors to the park; but even there those who are only partly supportive are very much in a minority.

The Masterplan proposals receive more qualified support, but support nevertheless with two who agree fully for every person who does not, and very few who disagree at all with what is suggested. Older and more frequent visitors are those most likely to raise questions about the ideas but are always in a small minority nonetheless.

Comments on the pond area are generally very supportive of the Masterplan proposals and tend to reinforce them, rather than being critical. A strong theme in the comments is that this area is essentially an area for wildlife, and wildlife's needs should be the prime consideration in this area, or at least as important as the need to provide human recreation. Wildlife encounter is, of course, one of the main activities people engage in as visitors to the park, and it is not surprising that people stress the significance of this.



The Masterplan is not necessarily seen as threatening the primacy of wildlife, but sufficient attention is drawn to this dimension to alert the Council to the need to take a sensitive approach here. Several specific issues are raised too, particularly the presence of rats which pollute the water, and which threaten nesting birds and their eggs, an apparent reduction in biodiversity in this part of the park in recent times, and the detrimental effects to both ducks and water of continual feeding with bread (though at least one person notes the impossibility of containing this problem in practice).

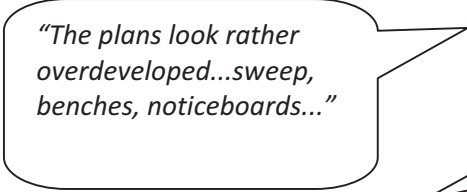
Several people note the relatively recent arrival of play equipment in this part of the park, and most feel this is an inappropriate development in a natural space, and disturbs the established occupants of this part of the park. Many who comment on this deprecate its presence, wanting it removed, or resited to the play area, but others welcome the sand play opportunity and say their children really enjoy this new space.

There is also a view that children's play in this area should be limited to less formal provision such as clambering over fallen trees, pond-dipping, playing pooh-sticks and other similar activities more compatible with a wild presence.

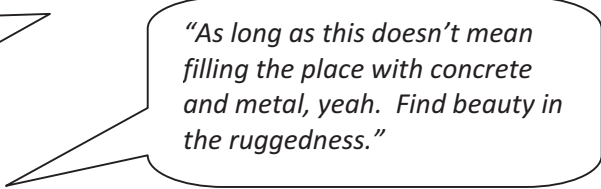


The natural theme also carries through into a discussion about the balance between development of this area and leaving it as natural space. Several people comment that,

whilst there may be a need to clear and clean in this area, it should not be “tamed” or “sanitised” as this would be to the detriment both of its wild inhabitants and the enjoyment of visitors. This leads to several pleas not to overdevelop the pond area and its surrounds.



*“The plans look rather overdeveloped...sweep, benches, noticeboards...”*



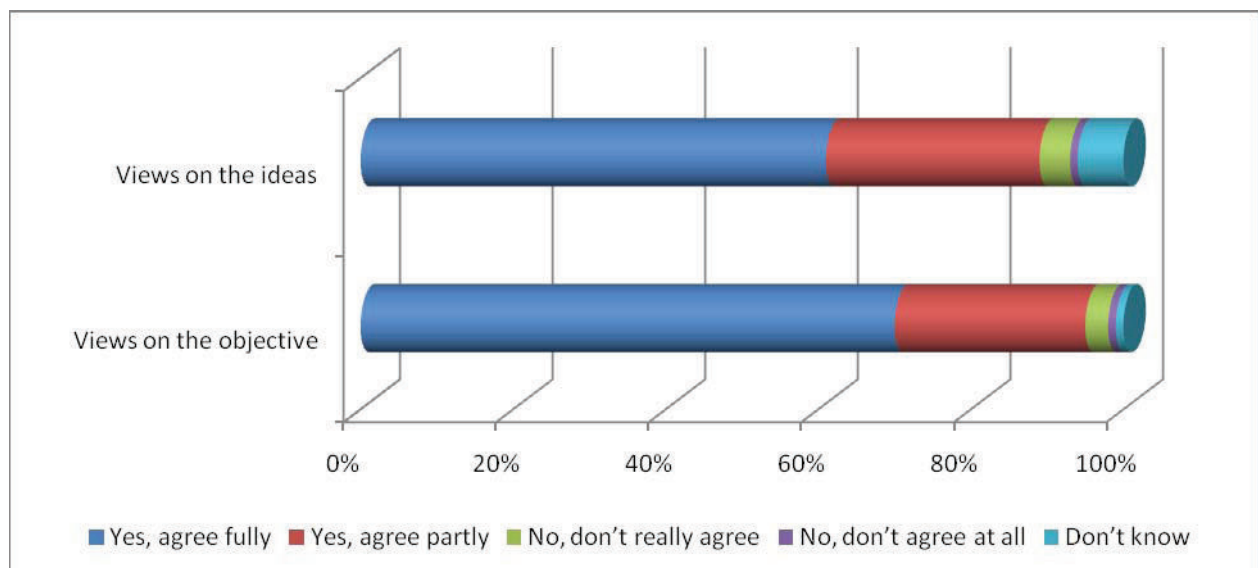
*“As long as this doesn’t mean filling the place with concrete and metal, yeah. Find beauty in the ruggedness.”*

## 7 The footpaths

The Masterplan reconfigures the footpath layout in the park, aiming to link places together more effectively, resite paths to follow more natural routes, resurface some paths, and create a circular route within the park boundary.

Our questions here focus on these objectives, and whether the Masterplan's solutions are welcomed, and people's answers are shown here:

Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the objective	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	70%	61%
Yes, agree partly	25%	28%
No, don't really agree	3%	4%
No, don't agree at all	1%	1%
Don't know	1%	6%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>248</i>	<i>241</i>



There is overwhelming support for the Masterplan's objective here; over two thirds of people support the Masterplan's goal fully, and almost everyone else has some sympathy with the aim. Hardly anyone disagrees with what the Masterplan seeks to achieve here. To the extent that there is any doubt, it tends to be among those who visit less often; objectors, though, are more likely to be frequent visitors.

Agreement with the ideas put forward to achieve these aims is almost as strong as support for the ideas themselves, suggesting that the Masterplan has largely got this issue right. Here, such disagreement as there is tends to be in inverse proportion to the frequency of visiting.

Comments on this question are almost uniformly supportive, with some additional observations. There is wide support for the idea of improving surfaces, as the current surfaces can become muddy in adverse weather and this especially affects children and pets using the paths, and is particularly difficult for those using wheelchairs or pushing buggies. However, some qualify this by asking that new surfaces should be consistent with a natural setting, rather than with urban footpaths, while others reserve judgment until they know what surfaces are proposed. There are also comments requesting that some paths, such as those in woodland areas, be left as they are to be more in keeping with their surroundings.

*"It would be good to see more wheelchair-friendly paths..."*

*"unsurfaced paths as well as the paved ones...you feel as though you are on more of a nature walk."*

The circular route idea finds some support, though not universally. It may be noted, though, that few joggers seem to use the park at present.

*"Circles are good...people like resolution."*

*"I see no need to create a complete circular walk."*

The other issue raised by several contributors under this topic is the need for, and the problems that arise from, sharing pathways between cyclists and pedestrians, including those walking pets. These uses are not irreconcilable, but do sometimes cause problems, which might be mitigated by making surfaces less muddy and splashy. Some cyclists fear that may be in some way excluded or discouraged from using the paths if the Masterplan is implemented.

*"Please ensure cycles are still allowed to share the paths...many people...ride through the park on their way to work or home."*

*"It's also important to remember that the park is used as a through route."*

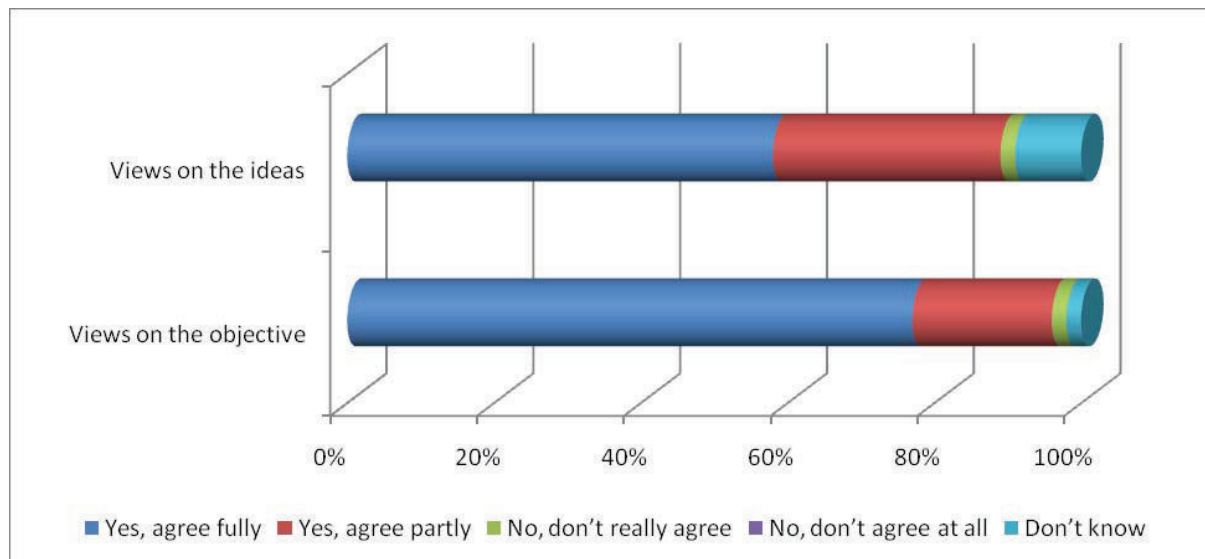


## 8 Services and facilities

Previous consultation on the park has indicated, among other things, a need for improved support for visitors. The toilets have been especially criticised for poor condition, to the point that people of both genders find natural alternatives rather than use them, while seats, bins and other park infrastructure is tired or poorly located. The Masterplan aims to make services like these work better for visitors, by renewing or relocating them.

People's agreement with this aim, and with the Masterplan's suggested solutions, are shown here:

Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the objective	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	77%	58%
Yes, agree partly	19%	31%
No, don't really agree	2%	2%
No, don't agree at all	0%	0%
Don't know	2%	9%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>233</i>

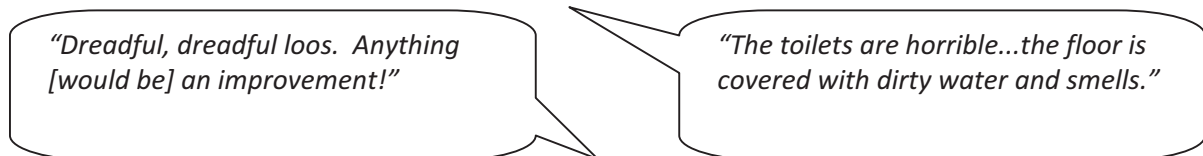


Support for this objective is overwhelming, indicating wide agreement with the earlier consultation's conclusions that this is an aspect of the park that needs serious attention. Nearly four out of five respondents say they agree fully with the aim here, and almost all of the rest offer at least partial support; there are very few people who would disagree with what the Council wants to achieve here. Those who are more cautious tend to be those who make less use of the park, but otherwise agreement is strong across the entire range of respondents.



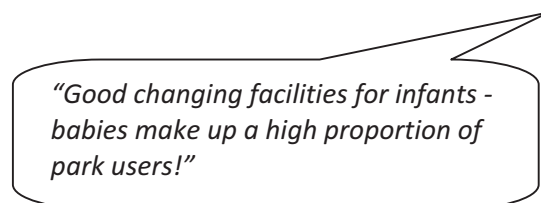
Nearly three in five people also agree fully that the Masterplan's approach to this issue will deliver what is needed, and again most of the remaining respondents at least agree in part. People of working age tend to a little more scepticism, but remain in a minority of nearly two to one in comparison to those supporting fully. Again, those who visit less frequently are those with greater doubt.

Comments on this aspect of the Masterplan are generally supportive and agree that the existing services and infrastructure are inadequate and need addressing. This is especially the case with the toilets:

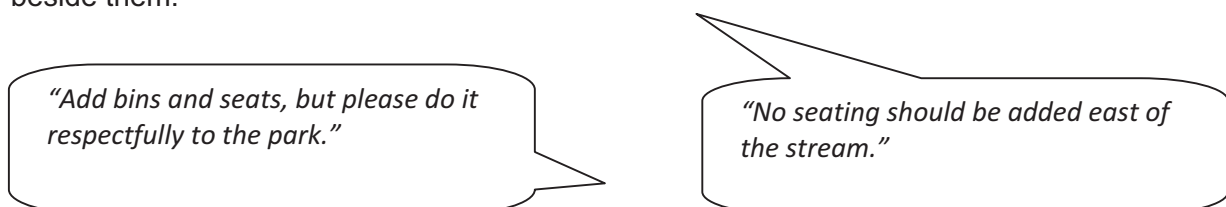


Widespread agreement on the principle, though, conceals some difference of opinion on the location of toilets. Some people want them to be sited close to the play area; others near the pond area – in both cases because of the need to get children to these facilities with the minimum delay. This is also why some people want two sets of toilets, as is offered in the Masterplan as a possible option, though others think this is excessive for a park of the size of Cherry Hinton Hall, and see the present location as a suitable compromise.

There are also repeated requests that any new toilets should include provision for baby-changing, and be accessible to buggies, so that children do not have to be left outside.

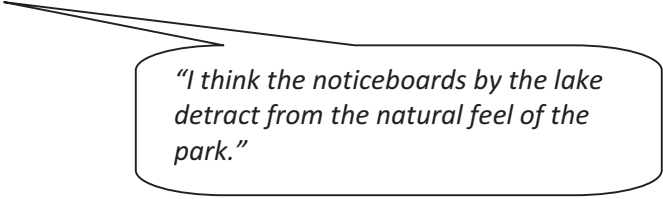


There is also widespread comment in support of new seating, though this should be additional to, rather than supplanting, what is already provided, and should be in keeping with the natural surroundings. They could also be placed remotely from paths as well as beside them.



Other comments look for additional signage, but these seem to be attempts to use signage to address behavioural problems such as irresponsible dog management, flower-picking and

so on. Signage is not noted for its effectiveness in this role, and a flurry of extra signage would seem likely to raise questions about urbanising a natural space.



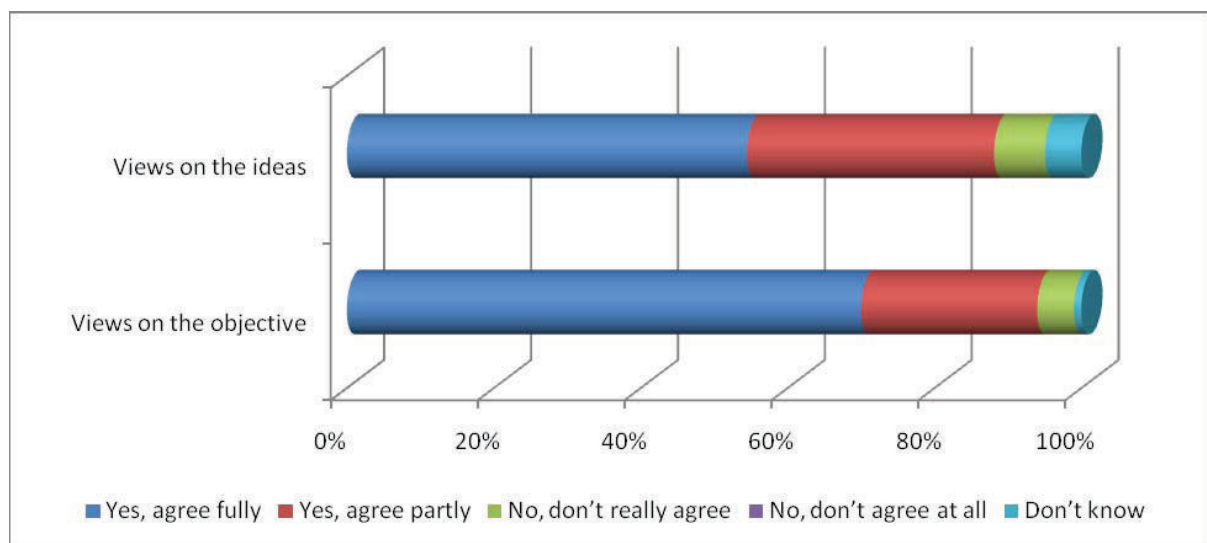
*"I think the noticeboards by the lake detract from the natural feel of the park."*

## 9 The landscape

The Masterplan starts from the premise that the Hall is a beautiful open space with some areas that are not as attractive as they could be. Areas singled out for attention by the Masterplan include thinning out in the woodland area by the pond, and creating new and more natural planting in keeping with the informal setting and feel of the park.

People's views on this aim, and how well the Masterplan proposals address it, are shown here:

Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the objective	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	70%	55%
Yes, agree partly	24%	34%
No, don't really agree	5%	7%
No, don't agree at all	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	5%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	246	233



Enthusiasm for the objective is high, with over two thirds of people fully supporting the aim, and almost everyone else in at least partial support. Very few people disagree with this objective, not even the person who notes that:

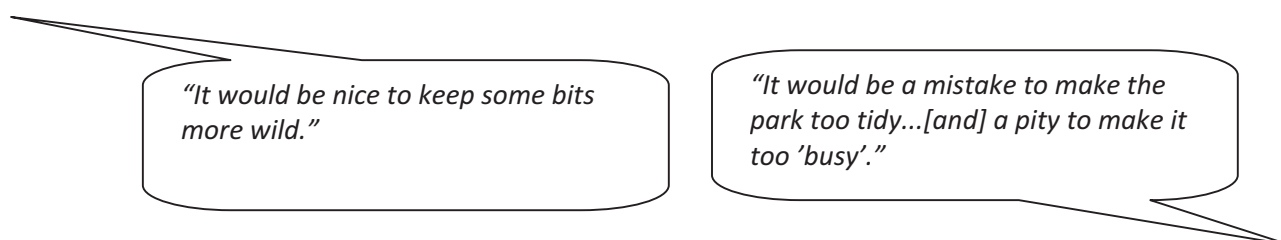
*"I like some "not attractive as they could be" areas!"*

Support for the Masterplan ideas is more qualified, but well over half of those responding support the Masterplan fully, with most of the rest cautious rather than objecting. Only a small proportion of respondents disagree with the Masterplan's interpretation for the landscape.

In both instances, those limiting their support are mainly people of working age.

Comments on these plans range across a number of issues, some of which have already been encountered in other contexts.

A major concern expressed by people, and which limits their capacity to support the Masterplan fully, is that the park should not be over-sanitised or over-tidied. These people take the view – expressed strongly in earlier consultation – that the park functions best as a natural space, or at least a space of contrasting landscape, and would therefore lose something precious if it were to become too managed a space.



*"It would be nice to keep some bits more wild."*

*"It would be a mistake to make the park too tidy...[and] a pity to make it too 'busy'."*

Closely linked to this is the observation already noted that the park is a space shared by humans and wild creatures, and that it is therefore necessary for us to manage the space to allow continued enjoyment by wild creatures as well as humans. To some extent this is a reflection of people's concern to respect wildlife; but it is also an important part of the park's aesthetic that it has areas that are not managed.

The wildflower ideas attract more support under this heading, and there are some who particularly like the idea of using the space near the south-eastern gate for this purpose; there are still, though opponents of this idea who think other sites are either better, or already available. There are also concerns to protect existing trees from damage or, worse still, removal.

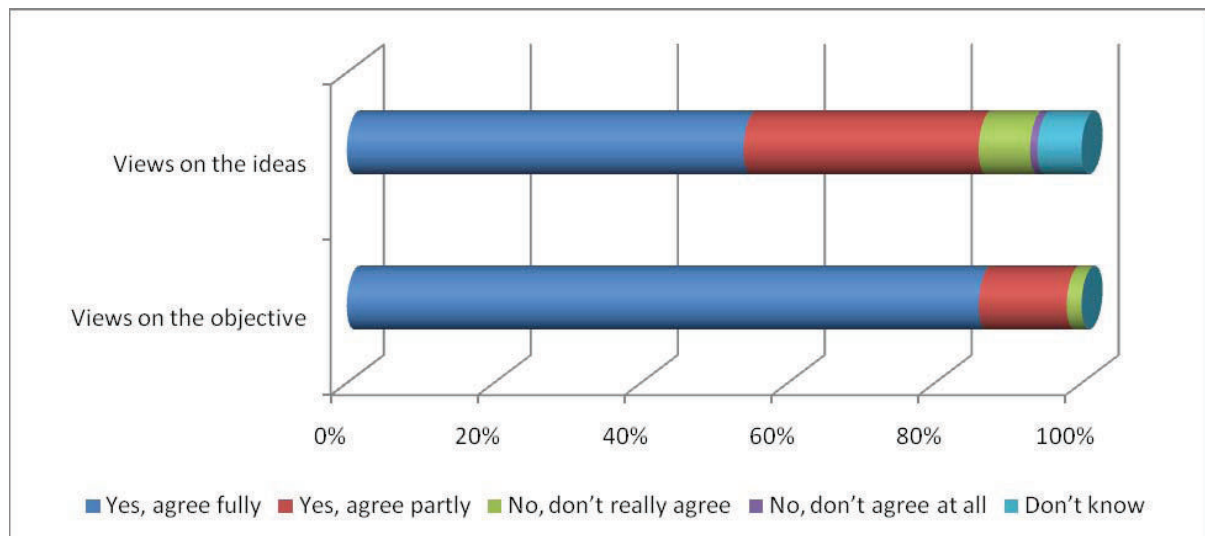
Many comments under this heading simply reinforce the approval already indicated, that the Masterplan is on the right track with its ideas here.

## 10 Wildlife

The Masterplan's stated objective for wildlife is that Cherry Hinton Hall should remain a haven for "appropriate" wildlife, including birds, wildfowl, small mammals and insects. This is at least partly to provide an opportunity for adults and children to encounter creatures in a natural setting.

Agreement with this objective, and the Masterplan proposals, is indicated here:

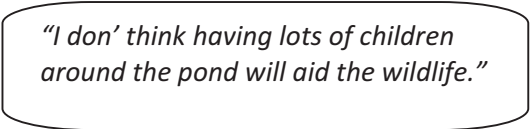
Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the objective	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	86%	54%
Yes, agree partly	12%	32%
No, don't really agree	2%	7%
No, don't agree at all	0%	1%
Don't know	0%	6%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>233</i>



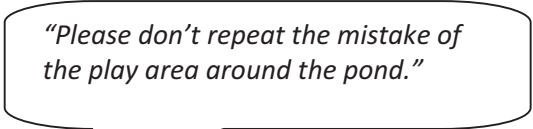
Agreement with the objective is very strong, with six out of seven respondents supporting the objective fully, and almost everyone else supporting partly. The overwhelming importance of the wildlife dimension of Cherry Hinton Hall is significant not only in the context of the Masterplan but also for any other proposals which might emerge; whatever is done with this space, people will be very intolerant of a development that impacts adversely on the wildlife of the park.

As to the way the Masterplan addresses this issue, there is still strong support, with over half the respondents fully in agreement with the Masterplan, but a third of people only agree partly. The comments on this issue help to clarify where people's doubts arise.

One of the major issues is the balance between the park as a natural space in which wildlife lives, and the park as a place of entertainment for people. Where and how this balance can be struck is not necessarily a point on which people agree, but several concerns are raised about this, based in part on past experience of the authority's approach. The play area in the vicinity of the pond is a prime culprit in this respect and is seen to have created disturbance to indigent wildlife.

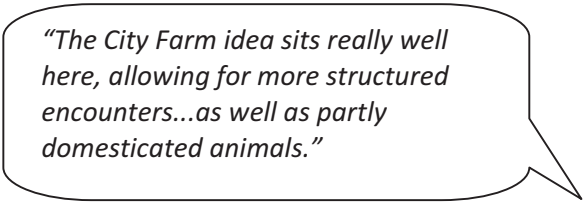


*"I don't think having lots of children around the pond will aid the wildlife."*



*"Please don't repeat the mistake of the play area around the pond."*

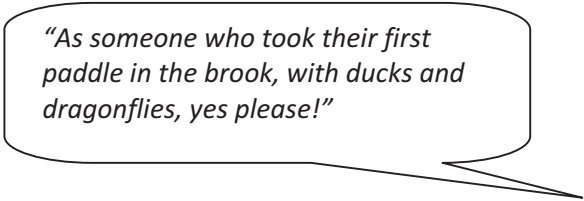
City Farm advocates see an affinity between their objectives and those of the Masterplan for wildlife, partly because it too offers encounters with animals.



*"The City Farm idea sits really well here, allowing for more structured encounters...as well as partly domesticated animals."*

There are also concerns that the work of implementing the Masterplan will disturb the wildlife unless it is managed carefully; one or two people also draw attention to undesirable wildlife in the form of rats. The comments made about wildlife identify a wide range of species and if these are correct, (and whilst respecting the signage comments noted earlier) it would seem desirable to have some information at the entrance to alert visitors to the biodiversity of this park.

There is a lot of support in these comments, again emphasising how important this is to people, and suggesting the Masterplan handles this reasonably well.



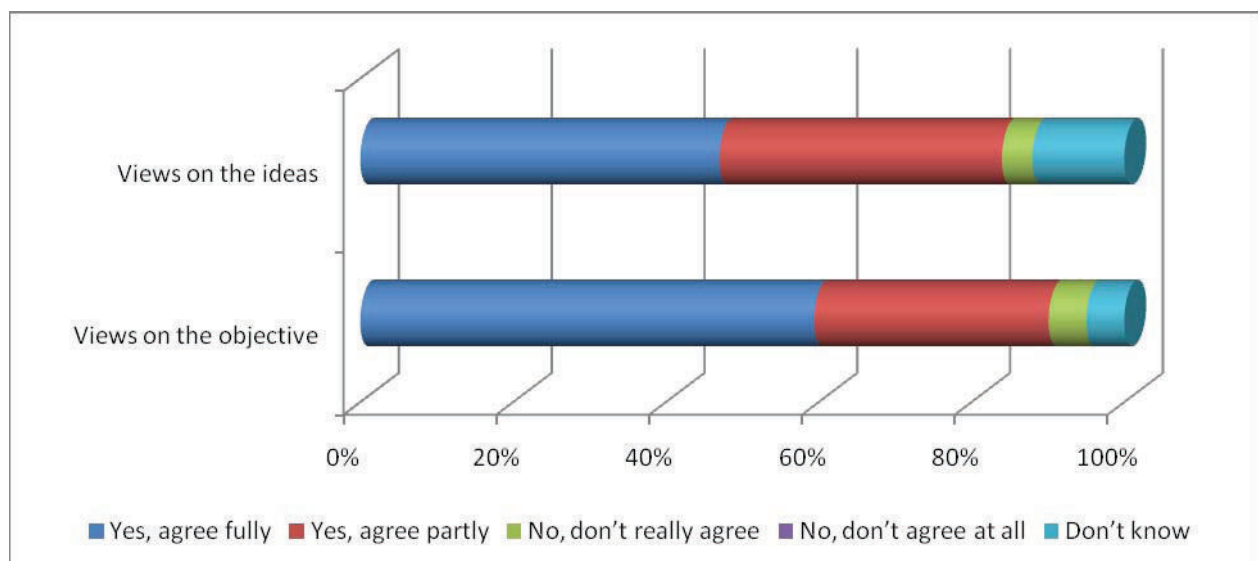
*"As someone who took their first paddle in the brook, with ducks and dragonflies, yes please!"*

## 11 Sport and Play

The Masterplan also examines the sport and play facilities on the western side of the park, keeping these much as they are but raising the possibility of improved changing, toilets and catering.

People's views on this objective, and the way the Masterplan addresses it, are given below:

Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the objective	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	60%	47%
Yes, agree partly	31%	37%
No, don't really agree	5%	4%
No, don't agree at all	0%	0%
Don't know	5%	12%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	243	227



There is support for the Masterplan's aim here, with three in five respondents fully supporting this goal, and most others supporting at least partly. Just 5% of respondents disagree with the objective; these are more likely to be regular or occasional visitors, with rare visitors more likely to disagree. Older people have more reservations about the Masterplan goal here, but even so most support it fully. People with children – who might be thought to have the biggest stake in this area of the park – are strongly supportive of the Masterplan, with over 70% fully supportive.

As to the delivery, about half of respondents fully support the Masterplan proposals, and most of the rest partly support. Disagreement is almost non-existent, but there are a substantial proportion of don't knows on these issues, one in eight of the total. People with

children at home are much more supportive of the Masterplan on delivery as well, and 55% support it fully, in comparison with 40% of those with no children; there are few don't knows among those with children at home.

Comments endorse the idea of keeping an area for sport and play, but also keeping it contained. The opportunity is also taken to remind us that several people are disappointed that equipped play has been allowed to stray from its allotted place, as they see it.

*"I agree that these facilities should be kept to the area that they are in now..large, yet discreet...I like it."*

*"This makes sense..I'm not sure why play facilities were put on the bird island...I'm amazed it was allowed."*

Whilst the Masterplan approach is broadly welcomed, there is little apparent interest in expanding sport and play provision at least in terms of space.

*"It is important that children have somewhere...it is good to see that the plans have not allowed [this] to intrude on other areas of the park."*

What sits within the space, though, is a different matter and several people would like to see a wider, or better, range of play opportunities for children of different ages within the existing boundaries of the play area.

*"The playground desperately needs new equipment the slide...still has not been replaced...the playground does not seem complete without [it]."*

*"I'd like to see some more varied play equipment."*

Other comments concern the suggestions of a cafe (mixed views, but several would welcome this) changing facilities (would be welcomed by parents of toddlers) and the desirability of relocating the new play equipment by the pond into the space allotted in the plan for children's play – a move which would attract a good deal of support. There are also comments, though, that ask that the number of structures in the park be kept to a minimum, to avoid it becoming over-developed. There is also a suggestion that a trim track would complement the circular path route.

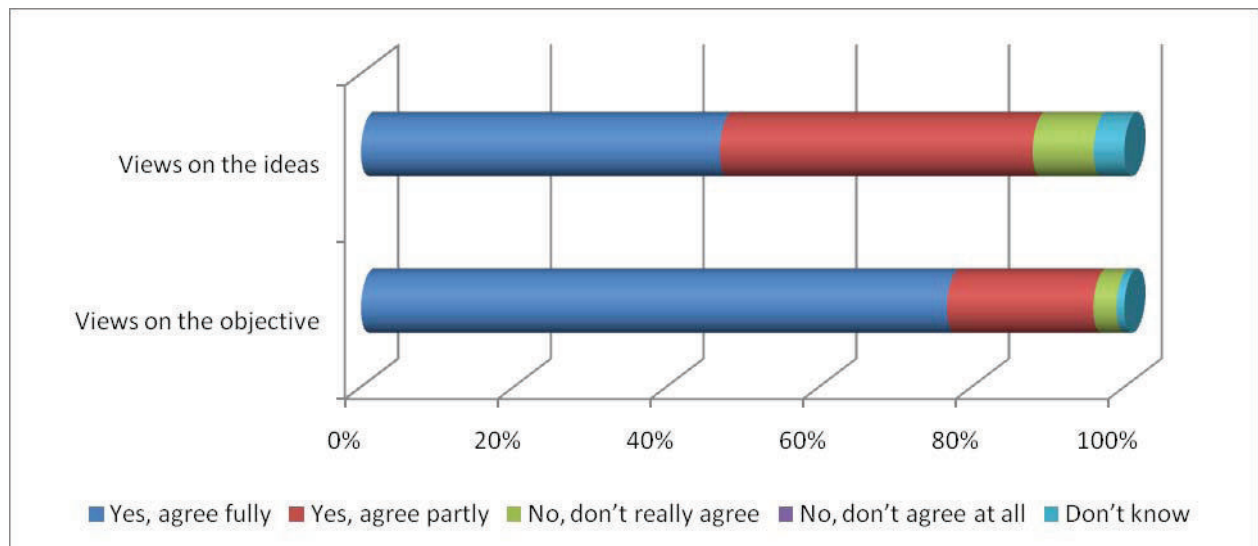


## 12 Overall

The overall aim of the Masterplan was determined by the first phase of consultation; the retention of the character of the park, while improving its fabric, facilities and biodiversity. The Masterplan was also drawn up to keep, and even enhance, what people said they value most about the park, while tackling those things that were identified as less attractive.

Having seen the detail of the Masterplan in each of eight different areas and issues, people were asked to comment on the overall objective, and the way the Masterplan tries to deliver this.

Response	Proportion of respondents	
	Views on the objective	Views on the ideas
Yes, agree fully	76%	47%
Yes, agree partly	19%	41%
No, don't really agree	3%	8%
No, don't agree at all	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	4%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>230</i>



There is a strong agreement with the Masterplan objective (which was itself derived from consultation, emerging very strongly from the focus groups); three quarters of respondents agree fully with this aim. Such uncertainty as there is arises among those aged 26-64, and among those with children at home.

There is also agreement that the Masterplan delivers this, but it is more qualified, with about half of all respondents agreeing fully with the Masterplan approach, and a similar, slightly

smaller proportion agreeing in part. The more qualified view comes particularly from those with children, and from adults under 45 years of age.

The overall comments do spend much of their time summarising or reinforcing comments made earlier under more specific headings. We therefore find comments again stressing the significance of wildlife, the need to remove the new play area, the problems of security, the need to keep new structures to a minimum, and so on. There are also comments stressing how a City farm will complement the Masterplan and help to achieve the stated objective.

There are some “new “ comments, nevertheless. One notes that the Masterplan offers very little that is new to younger park users, which they deprecate. Another suggests that the plan offers nothing for older people.

*“Virtually none of the ‘new money’...benefits anyone under the age of 16, or families...this is shocking.”*

*“Space for older people to exercise would redress an imbalance in age focus.”*

There are concerns about how the implementation might affect the Folk Festival, and it is clear that festival aficionados will need some reassurance on this important aspect. There are also more general concerns about the Council’s capacity to deliver the plan, or to afford to keep the site up to the standards the Plan is anticipating, especially at a time of financial stringency.

There are also some overall comments, some of which are negative but most of which are positive, encouraging, and supportive of the work done thus far.

*“This is a well balanced, and well thought out plan, with some minor tweaks only required.”*

*“The plan is a nonsense.”*

*“Too urban contrived...”*

*“The plan as a whole is a wonderful project...local people should be involved as much as possible and encouraged to participate.”*

*“Well done to everyone involved in this project.”*

*“...and the ideas are very good indeed...I think that the hall will benefit greatly.”*

*“Just get on with it!”*

## 13 Other ideas

The Masterplan was drawn up using the results of earlier consultation with both local residents and local stakeholders; this included some discussion of ideas and uses for different areas of the park, and some of these found their way into the Masterplan after endorsement in that consultation. The City Farm proposal had not emerged at that time, so it was never considered as part of the creation of the Masterplan; its inclusion as a possibility in this consultation is the first time it has been appraised in this way.

However, we did not want this to be simply a discussion of one proposal, whatever its merits might be, and therefore invited people to indicate other ideas, prompting their discussion by mentioning the city farm and also an art space, and a project to help unemployed young people – two other ideas that had been suggested at different times.

Whilst many people took the opportunity to discuss other ideas in this space, the main focus of discussion was on the city farm. We have examined the comments people made and divided them according to whether they favour the city farm idea (this includes those who favour, but with reservations) or oppose it (including those who think it is a good idea, but not for this location.)

A total of 187 respondents mention the City Farm in their answer to this question, and of these 131 (70%) are in favour of siting a City Farm at Cherry Hinton Hall, while 56 (30%) are against. Support for the City Farm is thus at a similar level to support for some of the other elements in the Masterplan. Unlike other elements of the Masterplan, however, the minority view is one of opposition, rather than caution.

Those who favour the City Farm tend to be younger than the opponents. Over 80% of 26-44s responding to this consultation favour the farm, but just over a quarter of over 65s do so; older people are much more likely to oppose the idea. There is no significant difference between the genders on this idea, but people with children are much more positive about the farm idea than those with no children, and so too are people with disabilities. City Farm supporters include many who use the park frequently, but the most frequent park users are less supportive of the idea overall.

Interestingly, farm opponents are stronger supporters of the Masterplan; those who favour the farm are more cautious in their support of the objectives the Masterplan is seeking to achieve. This suggests a slightly different overall vision for the park on the part of farm supporters.

The farm proposal receives some backing, too, from local groups and organisations. In addition to the group promoting the idea in the first place, the proposal is backed by some other local organisations including local faith groups and groups working with children and young people. However, the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall are firmly opposed to the idea.

Some advocates of the City Farm are clearly talking about a community garden rather than a livestock facility, and some are also clearly thinking on a different scale to others. Nevertheless, there is plenty of common ground in the argument used to support these ideas.

The advocates of a city farm draw attention to several perceived benefits. The most commonly mentioned is the **educational value** of such a facility, particularly to children and young people but also to adults. A City Farm would provide an opportunity for people to learn about animal husbandry and care, food production, agriculture, and even rural life in general.

*"An extremely valuable educational resource for both children and adults...nothing like it exists at present."*

*"A project that would involve all ages...ideally located close to a large number of...schools."*

These general educational benefits are expanded on by others to embrace some specific issues surrounding the production of food and the maintenance of a sustainable agricultural environment.

*"City Farm...needs to be considered...looking at alternative ways of providing food, and teaching people about where their food comes from."*

*"City Farms...have a lot to teach about biodiversity, sustainability, and working the land ethically."*

Alongside these educational benefits are substantial **entertainment benefits**; the City farm would not only educate, but would be an attraction in its own right which would serve to increase the attraction of the park to local people, enable the park to offer a wider experience to the visitor, and draw a wider audience.

*"It would provide a facility not found elsewhere in the city."*

*"It would be another attraction and reason for people to visit the park."*

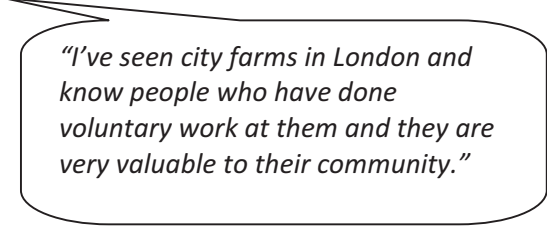
This aspect of the proposal is very often linked to **children** visiting the park, and many parents comment on how much their children would like it, and potentially learn

*"Children can become involved with farm life, not just on occasional visits to places like Wimpole."*

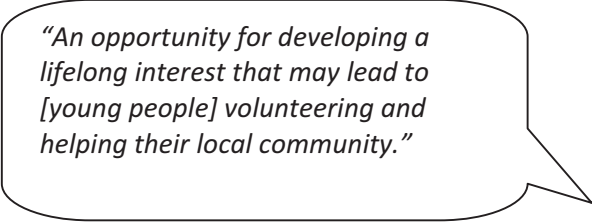
*"As a parent with small children I think it would be fantastic...easily accessible by bike and bus...it would be really well attended."*

from it.

A third dimension of the City Farm proposal is its potential to aid and support **community cohesion**. Different proponents of the scheme address this in different ways; the City Farm could help to provide constructive activity for local young people who might otherwise be drawn into anti-social activity; it could provide an outlet for local unemployed people, especially young people; it could bring people from different ages and backgrounds together with a shared objective and responsibilities. It would also be a cheaper option, and therefore more accessible, than Wimpole or other similar ventures further afield.



*"I've seen city farms in London and know people who have done voluntary work at them and they are very valuable to their community."*



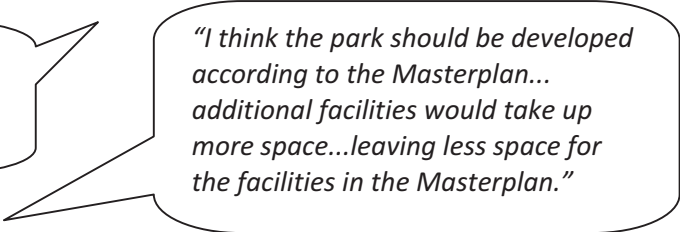
*"An opportunity for developing a lifelong interest that may lead to [young people] volunteering and helping their local community."*

Some extend this idea of cohesion further and argue the **therapeutic benefits** of working with animals, for instance in the context of improved mental health.

Those who oppose the farm do so on several different grounds. There are several who **like the Masterplan** as suggested, and who see a City Farm as obstructing the ideas in the Masterplan or compromising the overall objective of the Plan.



*"[the] Plan is good...no sheep or farm please!"*



*"I think the park should be developed according to the Masterplan... additional facilities would take up more space...leaving less space for the facilities in the Masterplan."*

The spatial issue is one echoed by others, who see difficulty in accommodating a City Farm within the Hall without damaging the ethos of the park or the other aspects that make it attractive. Some also draw attention to the fact that the Masterplan does not indicate what the **space requirement** of the farm would be, nor of how it might interact with other uses of the neighbouring space.

*"I have seen little detail about how the two concepts [farm and park] are to be fully integrated."*

*"Without knowing what it will look like, how can anyone have an opinion?"*

Other comments are directed at the **perceived impracticalities** of a City Farm, or at least a City Farm in this location. People here are concerned about the compatibility of a farm, with its associated impact, with the other uses of the site on an everyday basis and at festival times. Some dismiss the idea; others accept many of the arguments in favour, but make suggestions of other sites that would be more suited to such a use.

*"An extremely impracticable idea...do not ignore the...experiences of such farms that have suffered closure because of foot and mouth, [etc.]"*

*"Farm is a barmy idea – smell, noise, traffic would all conflict with basic ethos of the space."*

Some opponents disagree with the cohesion argument; they see a farm as essentially aimed at children and young people, and offering them very little, at some cost to a space they cherish. Others also disagree with the educational argument, suggesting that a City farm will not be a real farming environment and will not provide the insight being claimed for it.

The City Farm debate really dominates this question to the exclusion of other ideas, but some are suggested. The art space has both supporters and detractors, but really attracts little interest either way. There are a handful of comments suggesting stronger integration of the hall building, by making the inside of the building a resource within the park – a museum gets some support, but so do other uses. The cafe is also a welcome suggestion and one reason why some people like the City Farm is that they see potential for this to make a cafe viable.

The main area for additional comment, though comes from Folk Festival-goers, who are very concerned and anxious about how the Masterplan generally, and the City farm specifically, might affect their festival.

# **Understanding usage, needs, and improvements at Cherry Hinton Hall**



**A research report by Phil Back for Cambridge City  
Council**

**January 2009**

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## 1 Background and objectives

Cherry Hinton Hall is a large landscaped park in the south of Cambridge, sited on Cherry Hinton Road close to the city but also in close proximity to the village area of Cherry Hinton itself. The park was originally laid out as an estate surrounding the Hall, a substantial detached house in the centre of the park which was built in the Victorian era as a private residence. Cherry Hinton Hall was acquired by Cambridge City Council in 1937.

Under Council ownership, the site has functioned primarily as a local park, although it is also used for some high profile events, most notably the annual folk festival, which has taken place at the park for more than forty years. The Hall building has been let to an independent school, whilst the lodge cottage at the main gates is occupied by a Council employee as a tenant. Behind the Hall, a small depot building, yard, and propagation centre were constructed ; the depot building has since been let to the Cambridge Regional College, while the depot itself has recently been closed down (although some items remain stored on the site). The propagation centre was closed in 2007 and its glasshouses were demolished, leaving a large area in the centre of the park that is currently unused.

This research began as a project to explore future uses for the former propagation centre site, but early on it was realised that the site could only really be appreciated and appraised in the context of the wider park, and that people's interest would be in the park as a whole rather than simply on possible uses for the former propagation area. The scope of the project was therefore broadened out to look at the park as a whole, and the results entirely justify this approach, we believe.

The objectives of the study were:



- To examine how people utilise the park, and to see which groups of people are well served, and which are less well served, by the park as it currently stands;
- To examine which facilities in the park require improvement to meet the needs and expectations of those who use the park for different purposes;
- To explore possible future uses of the former propagation centre, and to gauge public and stakeholder interest in a range of alternative possibilities;
- To present the results of consultation to the Council and to indicate where possible preferred options for improvement or change in the park, its services and facilities.

## 2 Methodology

We saw the objectives of this study as requiring us to consult both with the general public in the vicinity of the park, and also with key stakeholder groups and organisations who either use the park themselves, or have some professional relationship with it.

To ensure public participation, we set up two focus groups, one for parents of younger children (those of an age to use the play facilities provided on the site) and one for other park users, regardless of age, who use the park more generally rather than the play facilities. A professional recruiter was asked to recruit ten people for each of these groups, which were held in the local primary school early in December 2008; in addition, two other people who had already expressed an interest in the park were invited to the second group. To ensure that the meetings included ordinary people as well as anyone with a specific “axe to grind”, a cash incentive of £35 was paid to each person who attended the two public focus groups.

Alongside this, we also

- Held a focus group-type discussion with stakeholders invited from a list supplied by the City Council (no incentive was paid for this, as people attended as a corollary of their job, or their representative function);
- Met individually with other stakeholders unable to attend this discussion;
- Met with elected members representing the two wards which encompass the site and its immediate surroundings;
- Liaised with the CHYPPS team to ensure their consultation work and ours were properly integrated and that they did not conflict or overlap.

Attendances were as follows:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Committed to attend</b>	<b>Actually attended/met with</b>
Stakeholders	15	14
Residents with children	10	8
Other park users	12	9

The report that follows explores the views of all those who took part. Equal weight is given to each respondent, and quotations are anonymised in accordance with the undertaking given to those taking part.

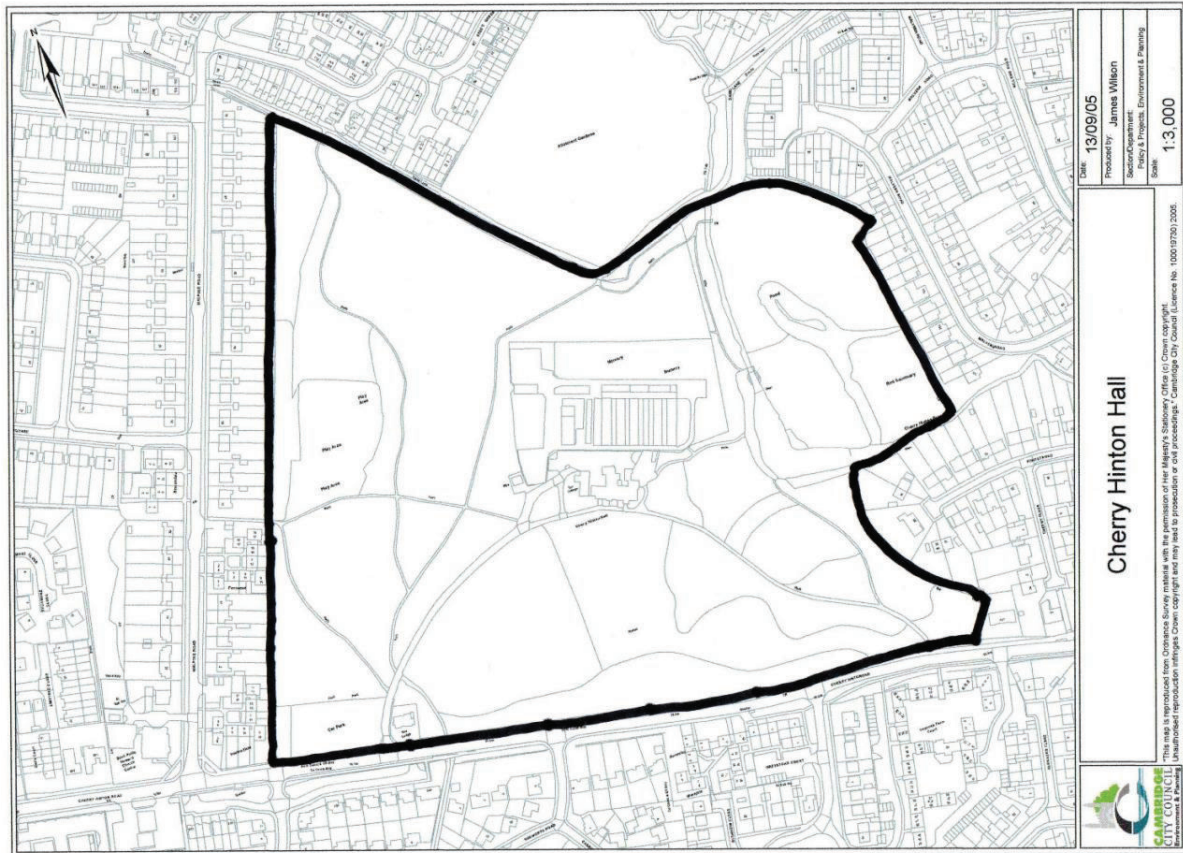
The groups followed an agreed discussion outline which is included as an appendix to this report. However, the facilitator allowed the discussion to flow in the direction of the agreed objectives and not all tasks were necessary or undertaken by all three groups. Stimulus was provided to the groups in the form of a large map, and cards that allowed people to identify particular parts of the site for discussion. Conversations with individuals tended to be more free flowing and exploratory and did not follow any particular structure, although we ensured that the key issues were discussed. Themes emerging from the discussions have been identified, both the big picture of the park as a whole and the more detailed picture of specific areas or issues relating to the park.

We are grateful to all those who took part, and for their contributions, which are welcomed.

### 3 The park as a whole

Cherry Hinton Hall is outlined in the site plan below, and can be viewed on Google Earth.



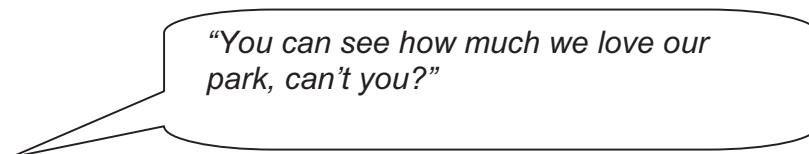


The park lies in a largely urbanised area and is bounded to the south by a main road. The eastern and western boundaries are largely the back gardens of adjoining residential properties, with a small stream lying between the park and property on the northern and north eastern edges. An allotment area to the north of the site is not part of Cherry Hinton Hall, but provides a green link to other parts of the city's open space.

Although people feed back on specific areas of the park that they use or feel strongly about, there are also a number of comments about the park as a whole. These help to set a context in which improvement or modification can be set.

### 3.1 Value

As with other open spaces in the city, this is a very popular and highly valued site. Although people have little difficulty in identifying improvements they would like to see, they also stress a very positive view of the site as a whole.



Aspects that are valued include the undulating landscape, the open space, the mature trees (and their autumn colours), the facilities available for play and recreation, and the presence of a large recreational space in a busy urban context.

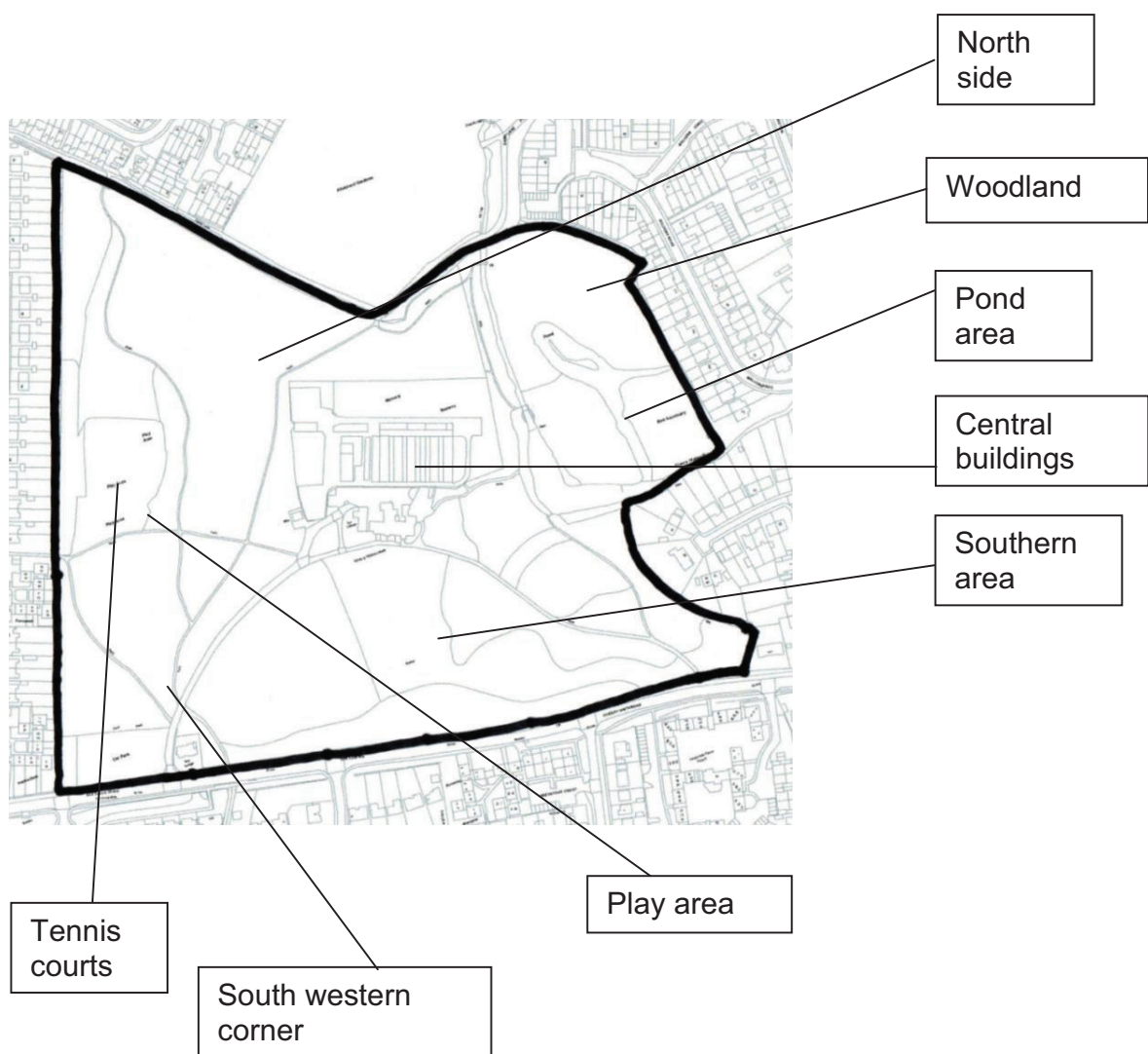
### 3.2 Heritage

The heritage value of the site is an important dimension. Although the park lacks the long-term history of other more central parks in Cambridge, people are making a lot more of Cherry Hinton Hall's heritage value than of the other, perhaps more historically significant sites. This is especially well seen in the escorted guided tours offered by one local person who explains the history and natural value of the site to visitors. Cherry Hinton Hall has only existed in its present form since 1837 but the site was previously occupied by Netherhall Manor, and even in its present incarnation its various uses as a family home, as an army training location, and as a home for evacuees are of interest as well as historic consequence. There has also been a locally organised archaeological exploration on the site, involving schoolchildren, which unearthed Roman finds as well as more recent ones.

However, the park does not respond especially well to this heritage aspect, and interpretation and information for visitors about the heritage and natural history of the park is very limited.

#### 4 A closer look at the park, area by area

This section looks at different parts of the park in turn, and explores what people do in these spaces and how (if at all) the areas could be improved or enhanced. The areas are in some cases vaguely drawn but in general are defined in terms of the way space is utilised by visitors. The areas are annotated on this version of the site map, though boundaries are of course blurred.





#### 4.1 The pond area

The eastern side of the site includes a significant amount of space given over to ponds, created by managing the flow of water along the brook that flows through this part of the site. The water area takes the form of a U-shaped pond, but one arm of the U is much less easily accessed and seems to be little used. The layout of the ponds and watercourses has also created a small island area which historically was used as a bird reserve but which has now become very badly overgrown. The access to this area is difficult, but a damaged fence means this part of the site is not secure and there is anecdotal evidence of inappropriate use of this part of the area. A bridge crosses the stream at the north end of the western pond and leads into the woodland area and to the rest of the pond space; the stream and bridge lend themselves to the eternally popular activity of Poohsticks.

The ponds are colonised by insects, fish, and a variety of wildfowl including mallards, moorhens, geese, and swans, all of which breed on the site. There is evidence, though, that nests and eggs have been damaged, and that young chicks may have been taken by predators; foxes and herons have both been observed in this area.

Immediately west of the pond area is a widened, surfaced space that is used as a platform for feeding the ducks, and also for activities such as pond dipping. This area has benches and bins, and is popular with young people as a space for hanging out or meeting friends. The space also forms part of the north-south path network on this side of the park.

This area is one of the park's focal points in terms of use, and clearly for many a visit to the park is incomplete without an opportunity to feed the ducks – an activity which seems to appeal to a wide age range.

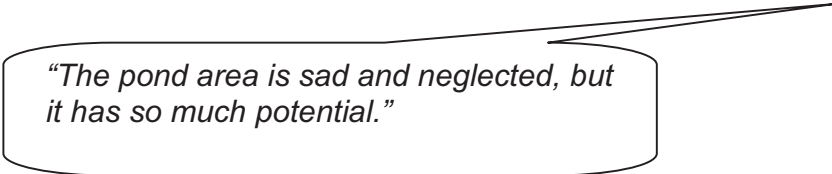


*"You're never too old to feed the ducks."*

Some people would like to see more ducks and wildfowl (or a variety of species), but others say there are enough already; similarly, some see the ducks as needing to be fed while others note that the ducks are often quite fat and don't take as much interest in being fed. The area also has squirrels and other mammals, and people also feed the squirrels and come to this area to enjoy contact with nature; a kingfisher is known to have been resident on the Cherry Hinton brook for many years. Also present, but much less loved, is a population of rats who may be encouraged by the presence of litter. This is more of a concern because children are sometimes allowed to paddle in the pond.

There is more agreement on the condition of the pond area, which is seen as quite run down and littered, a situation which is exacerbated in the autumn when falling leaves congeal in the pond and make it both shallow and stagnant. This seems to be a particular problem in the eastern, less visited arm of the pond. One specialist stakeholder suggests that a water management plan is needed to protect water quality and to prevent unwanted parasites.

The former bird reserve is seen as badly overgrown.

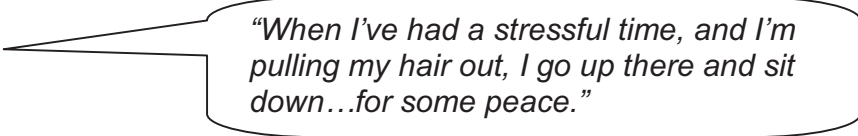


*"The pond area is sad and neglected, but it has so much potential."*

The pond area is also popular as a site for picnics in summer. A small barbeque area is provided but does not seem to be well used and is thought to be badly sited. Benches beside the pond are popular, and some people sit there to enjoy birdsong and conversation; the pond side benches are also used as a meeting place by younger park users. The latter are however blamed for much of the

litter in this area, and there are reports of some anti-social behaviour, including throwing stones at the ducks. In addition, dog owners allow their dogs to run freely in this area and this is seen as incompatible with protecting the wildlife. A more structured approach to the ecology of this area would be welcomed.

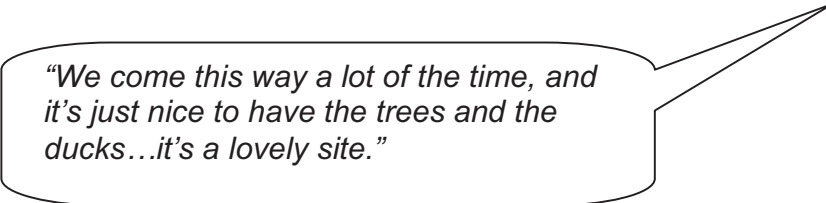
Although this comment comes from several places, the anti-social activity does not stop others from using the pond area.



*“When I’ve had a stressful time, and I’m pulling my hair out, I go up there and sit down...for some peace.”*

Some people have become so exercised about the condition of this part of the park that they have organised an informal clean up, removing large numbers of cans and plastic bags that they suspect have blown in from unemptied, overflowing bins.

In spite of its condition, though, this is an area people value greatly and use extensively – not least because they are encouraged to do so by the events organised by the Council (pond dipping, for example) and by local people (such as historical re-enactment for children).



*“We come this way a lot of the time, and it’s just nice to have the trees and the ducks...it’s a lovely site.”*

## 4.2 The woodland

The north-eastern corner of the park is given over to woodland, and rough paths run through this area. The woodland has not been well managed, however, and presents a scrubby, overgrown appearance that diminishes its attractiveness. Nevertheless, it is still valued for the opportunities it gives for natural recreation and encounters with birds and occasional mammals, even including muntjak deer. Users tend to combine pond and woodland visits so many of the comments about the pond area also apply to the woodland.

Access in this area tends to be muddy at times, and the paths are badly deteriorated and damaged by cycling or motorcycling. Lighting is limited and makes the area feel a little threatening after dark.

The perception is that it's good to have a wild and natural area but that this one is badly managed and neglected, and as a result is badly run down. The CHYPPS project (see Section 7.3) would address this but awareness seems to be quite confined at present to a small group of people in the know.

## 4.3 The north side

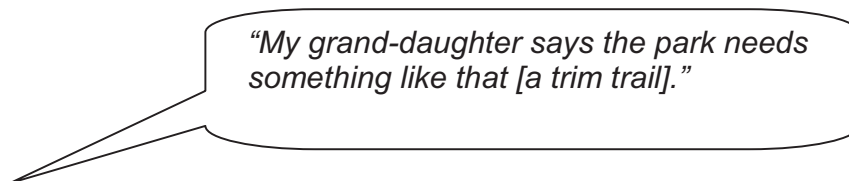
The northern area of the park is largely grass interspersed with trees, and is bordered with mature trees. There are several entrances into the park in this area, which borders a local but well-used footpath along the northern edge of the site.

This part of the park is largely free space with no particular role, but it is the area most used for sports and games (in fact almost all the informal sport activity seems to take place in this locality) and is also used for picnics and for exercising

pets; there is a lot of space here where dogs can run freely. It is also an area people tend to pass through on their way to another part of the park.

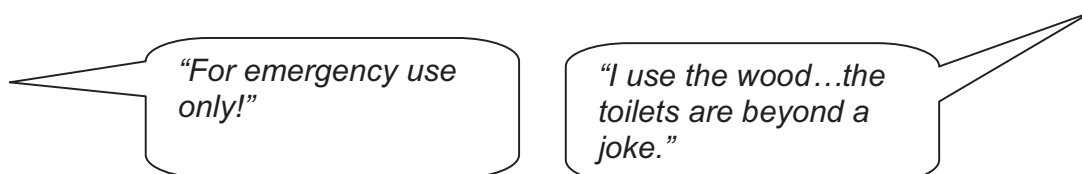
Sports played here include cricket, football, rounders and frisbee, but there are no markings or goalposts, and the ground is undulating, so sport is inevitably informal in nature. The presence of trees is also problematic for those wanting to play sports, as they tend to interfere with free play.

A striking feature of the consultation is the limited use of this park for jogging and exercise. People do walk in the park, but relatively few see or encounter joggers, perhaps because there is no perimeter path or other circular route within the park; joggers tend to run through the park, rather than running in it. There is some interest in providing more support for exercise and fitness, but this is tempered by the possibility that it might be misused.



*"My grand-daughter says the park needs something like that [a trim trail]."*

On the edge of this part of the park, near to the building cluster, is a small toilet block. This receives very negative comment and the toilets are generally condemned for being in very poor condition.



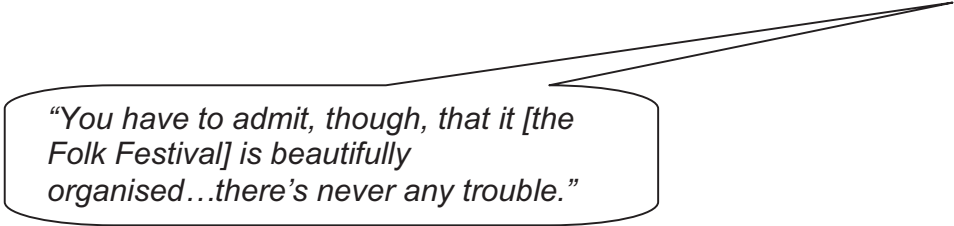
*"For emergency use only!"*

*"I use the wood...the toilets are beyond a joke."*

The toilets are also highlighted as being too far from the play area, so that parents have to round up all their children in order to take one to the toilet. Parents would not allow their children into the toilets unsupervised, for fear they would touch something contaminating, and also report occasional "funny

characters” hanging around. Moreover, the toilets are not always open when they might be expected to be, and whilst the natural alternative of using the undergrowth is acceptable to some, it is not an acceptable option for the vast majority of adults, especially women. The lack of adequate toilets may in practice limit access to the park and shorten the length of time people spend there. This certainly seems to be the case for parents with babies, who are emphatic that they would not take their offspring into these toilets. There is no disabled toilet, but some visitors are aware that the hall has a toilet which disabled visitors can use (at certain times only); this information is not prominent on the site.

The annual folk festival makes extensive use of this part of the park, and not everyone welcomes this, since it closes the park to everyday users at the start of the school summer holidays and forces them to go elsewhere. The festival is also seen as damaging the site, although closer examination of these comments suggests that people have long memories of one bad summer rather than recalling persistent damage. The noise is also noticed, but does not seem to be especially problematic; there are however suspicions that damage is done to the pond area, and that wildfowl are persecuted, during the festival.



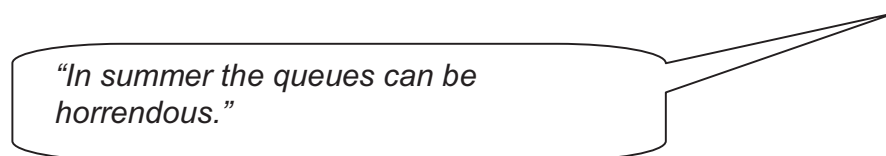
*“You have to admit, though, that it [the Folk Festival] is beautifully organised...there’s never any trouble.”*

#### **4.4 The tennis courts**

On the western side of the park is a hard surface tennis court – a fairly recent addition to the facilities here - which seems to be well used and in demand.

There are no equipment hire facilities so users have to come prepared, and this means that impromptu games are not possible.

Nevertheless the courts are well used in summer, and people report long queues to use them in summer holiday time. There is also a view that other sports opportunities should be provided for those who prefer to play other hard surface games such as basketball.



*"In summer the queues can be horrendous."*

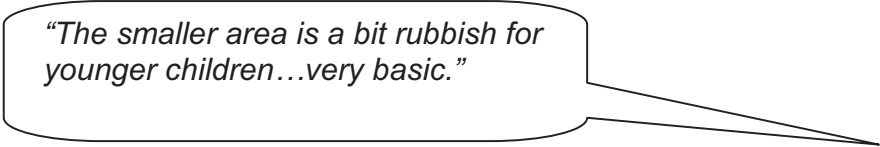
#### **4.5 The playground**

A large part of the western side of the park is allocated to children's play. The area is partly enclosed against dogs, and includes a range of play opportunities and equipment. Two small paddling pools are provided (these close for the winter), and there is also fixed play equipment aimed at toddlers, infants and primary age children, whilst a short zipline and a limited combination of rustic play units offers something for older children. There is no specific provision here for teenagers however.

The play area includes some picnic benches and other seating, and also incorporates a new cycle rack which does not appear to be well used. There is also a kiosk-type structure which does not seem to be used at present but which guards the entrance to the enclosed area, and which houses water pumps and filters for the paddling pools..

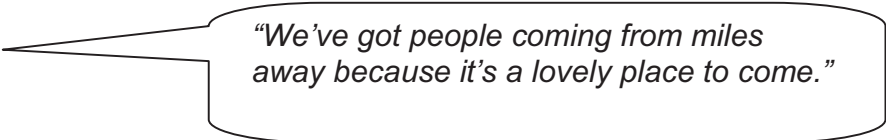
The range of equipment and the age-range being catered for here are both praised. Some children find some equipment difficult to use but this seems to be because they are trying to use equipment that is designed for older children. On

the other hand, the provision for toddlers and very young children is seen as insufficiently imaginative and children get bored quite quickly with this. There is very little provision made for children with disabilities and parents of such children are critical of this shortcoming.



*“The smaller area is a bit rubbish for younger children...very basic.”*

The older children’s equipment is very popular and the zipline especially so, in spite of its relative shortness and lack of significant challenge. There are sometimes queues to use some equipment, and the provision is good enough to attract visitors from well beyond the typical catchment of a play area. This does not seem to be resented at all, though, by local residents.



*“We’ve got people coming from miles away because it’s a lovely place to come.”*

The play area is also known to be a popular hang out area for teenagers and this can sometimes lead to graffiti damage, although the problem does not seem to be especially pervasive.

Although the play area is popular and seen as well-equipped, there are nevertheless aspirations for improvement. The paddling pools are very popular and well-used, but as a consequence they quickly become dirty and grubby. Some parents would like to see changing facilities – albeit basic ones – provided, and this would probably be essential if those with cultural sensitivities to changing are to be accommodated. The play area is a significant distance from the car park for those arriving with children and picnic luggage, and there is



insufficient seating for parents and for picnics, so some would like to see it relocated, but there is no strong lobby for this.

Although the primary purpose of this area is play, it must be noted that a large number of people use the play area as a place for socialising. Children meet and make friends here, whilst parents use the opportunity of the play space to sit and chat with friends. This social dimension is almost as important.

Changes people would like to see include a more challenging set of equipment and opportunities for older children, and better provision for the very young. There is also significant interest in catering facilities for this area of the park – an interesting result given that catering is not a particularly prominent priority in terms of city parks generally. There is particular enthusiasm for providing sport/play space for teenagers in the form of multi-use games area, and those who have seen these elsewhere think this would a welcome addition at Cherry Hinton, although not everyone we spoke to would support this.

#### **4.6 The southwestern corner**

This area includes a car park, a small recycling centre, and the main entrance, as well as an area of grass with extensive tree cover.

Although there are several entrances to the park, the main entrance is a wide driveway leading off Cherry Hinton Road and giving access to the central buildings and also to a small car park in the south western corner. The car park appears quite busy and evidences the fact that a significant proportion of visitors come to the park by car. There are marked parking spaces, but no specific provision for cycles. The car park incorporates a mini-recycling site.



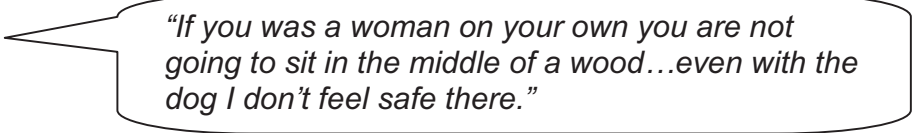
*Looking towards the main entrance in the south-western corner*

The main entrance is gated, and a secondary gate is sited so as to enable access to the car park but not beyond this point. This second gate has historically been secured at dusk but this no longer seems to be the case. There are noticeboards at the main entrance but these are primarily used for events advertising and give very little or no information about the park itself. There are no visible notice boards with emergency contact details, or with information for visitors about the attractions on offer here.

Next to the main entrance is a small cottage, formerly the gatekeeper's lodge, which is now occupied by a council employee as tenant. Again, historically this person had a defined role in relation to access to the central buildings, but this no longer seems to be the case.

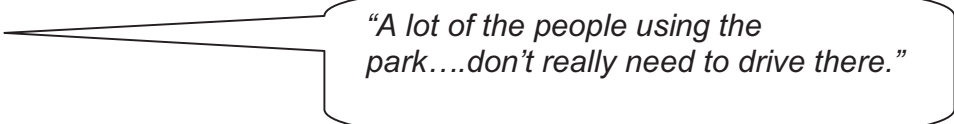
There is a bus stop outside the main gate with regular and frequent services to Cherry Hinton and the city centre.

This area seems to be used mostly for walking through, rather than stopping in. Tree cover means that the grass is poor and often muddy, making this a difficult area to play in, but the area is popular on hot days when it provides extensive and welcome shade from the sun. The area is viewed positively but is not well used, and the benches see limited use only; some people feel unsafe because views are restricted and the area feels quite secluded, in spite of its location. A tree sculpture in this area is very well liked. Dogs are walked in this area so it is subject to contamination by dog poo at times.



*“If you was a woman on your own you are not going to sit in the middle of a wood...even with the dog I don’t feel safe there.”*

The car park is well used and there is evidence that even local people use their cars to get here. Nevertheless it is usually relatively easy to find spaces and there is no strong pressure for more car parking space; residents note that it is easy to park on-street within easy walking distance.



*“A lot of the people using the park....don’t really need to drive there.”*

The recycling centre is however poorly situated and causes noise and (from time to time) anti-social behaviour disturbance to nearby residents, who are primarily older people in supported housing.

The information boards are seen as inadequate and missing an opportunity to describe the facilities in the park (especially for first time visitors) and the natural

history of the site – particularly the identification of trees, and the birds to be seen in the park.

#### 4.7 The central buildings

A cluster of buildings occupies the centre of the park. These include the hall itself, now occupied by an independent school who also utilise part of the immediate grounds of the hall as outdoor educational space. The college is not accessible to the general public, although there is evidence to suggest that its toilet facilities are sometimes used by visitors with disabilities. In front of the hall is a small formal garden planted out with shrubs and flowers and sheltered by a tree border.



*The former hall, now accommodating an International School*

There is also a single storey building formerly used as a council depot, which is now used by the Cambridge Regional College as a centre for employment training for young people, and this is accessed by a wide driveway bordered on the opposite side by a small compound used for storing small park-related items such as goalposts and other accessories. Behind the depot is the former propagation site, the glasshouses having now been removed to leave a large, flat, but unkempt area that is out of keeping with the beauty of its surroundings. Two poly-tunnel structures remain on this site and are being used for storage of small quantities of plants, apparently kept in reserve against damage to current floral displays elsewhere in the city. The propagation site is bordered by a large and dense hedge which obscures it from general view; however, although this area would technically not be accessible to the public access is easy during the day when the depot is open.



*The former propagation site, showing the current surfacing and the remaining polytunnels.*

The only public part of this area is the floral garden in front of the main hall. This is generally liked and seen as well maintained, in spite of its contrast with the more natural landscape surrounding it. Some residents would like to see more planting, but there is a mixed view about this; some think this would increase the attractiveness of the park, whilst others value the “natural” and wild nature of the site away from the central buildings. Wild flowers would therefore be more acceptable as planting than formal borders.

Residents have very little to say about the buildings themselves. It is not surprising that the hall building and its environs are accepted as part of the landscape but even the depot and the former propagation centre attract little unprompted comment and seem largely to be seen as part and parcel of the site.

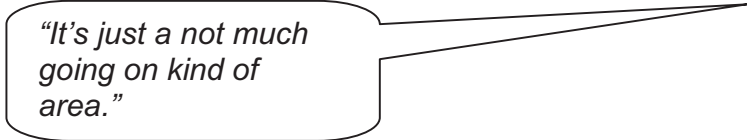
#### **4.8 The southern area**

The southern side of the park, between the hall and Cherry Hinton Road, is largely grass interspersed with many mature trees, and with a border of mature trees along the road side itself. In spite of its proximity to a significant local road, noise disturbance does not seem to be a prominent issue here.

Use of this area is primarily for walking and sitting, rather than for more active pursuits, and residents said they were able to shut out the road noise to enable them to enjoy a pleasant walk in this area, among the trees and landscape. A small number use it for playing sports or running but the area does not especially lend itself to this type of activity. This area is generally more sedentary and ambulatory, in spite of ambient noise, and the improvements needed here focus on provision for seating. People have also noticed how well the trees planted

after the 1987 hurricane have thrived, and how they are renewing the tree screen that used to exist in this area.

There is one entrance in the southeastern corner, and this part of the park borders closely on to the back gardens of adjacent housing, some of which have gates from their own gardens into the park. This area gets very little use other than from some people passing through. The area is seen as too near the road and the houses, and has little to cause a visitor to stop and look at anything; it is really an entrance to the park at the moment, rather than a part of the park itself. Residents think it should have something in it that would encourage visitors to pause there or to go there specially.



*"It's just a not much going on kind of area."*

The area is shaded and (in spite of its proximity to housing) this gate is not as well used as others.

## 5 The former Propagation Centre

One of the main areas of interest in this consultation was the possible re-use of the former propagation centre. Those consulted were allowed to make their own observations about this space, , but were also invited to react to some suggestions put to them which would help them to think more broadly about possible uses for the space. It was explained to participants that none of these ideas had any particular status and that these were not in any sense to be seen as firm proposals for reuse of the space. The suggestions can be grouped around particular themes as follows:

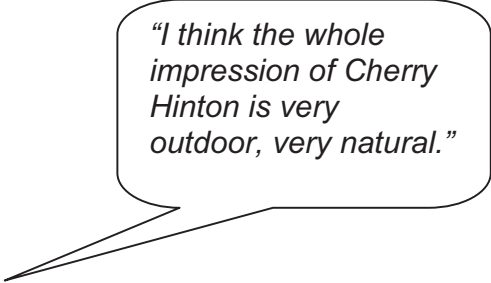
### 5.1 Arts

There is a close affinity between Cherry Hinton and the arts. This derives not only from the festivals, but also from the sculptures that have at times been placed around the site using fallen trees, and from the prominence of arts and cultural life in the Cambridge community generally. Some of the suggestions involved using the propagation centre space for arts, either as open air exhibition space or for the provision of an informal gallery for local artists, or performance space.

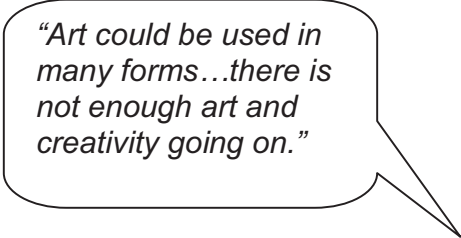
There is some interest in this as a possibility, especially among residents with arts interests, but it has to be said that there is more enthusiasm for the preservation of the space as outdoors, rather than for a building to house arts activity. It was noted, for instance, that indoor performance space would increase vehicle traffic and require extra roads and parking. It is also noted that the Junction, not far away on Cherry Hinton Road, is doing this already and a facility here might compete. That said, there was a lot more enthusiasm for using Cherry Hinton Hall generally as a showcase for outdoor public art, as at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield, rather than confining arts activity into a single building or space.



A bandstand is mentioned but a more multifunctional outdoor performance space could also be possible.



*"I think the whole impression of Cherry Hinton is very outdoor, very natural."*



*"Art could be used in many forms...there is not enough art and creativity going on."*

One resident suggests a graffiti wall but this idea is not at all popular with others. There is greater enthusiasm for other, more positive participation in arts, encouraging people to be creative and providing space for that.

## 5.2 Buildings

Several of the ideas put forward for the space used a building of some form. This could be a community centre, an arts space, a space that could be used for training or employment, or space for catering.

As with the arts proposal, there is a mixed view about placing a building on this space. Although it would not be completely unacceptable or impossible to do this, the idea was received only luke-warmly and with significant reservations. At best, there would need to be some extensive consultation, with possible designs, before a green light could be seen to have been given.

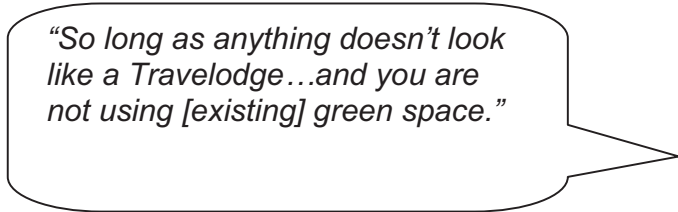
The exception to this rule is in the area of catering. There is enormous enthusiasm for the idea that part or all of a building could be given over to a café type operation offering teas and coffees, baking and so on to visitors, and even after being challenged as to the commercial viability of such an operation enthusiasm remains strong. One person wondered whether this could be done

within the existing structures rather than creating more, but still liked the idea of a café nevertheless.

A community centre to complement existing facilities is a reasonably popular idea but as with other building related suggestions there are doubts as whether this is the right place. People would seem to prefer the improvement and expansion of facilities at the Village Centre rather than here in the park.

The idea of using the space to provide supported learning and work for vulnerable people is welcomed in principle, but there are significant doubts about running such a project in a space of this kind. Whilst some are enthusiastic up to a point, there is no conviction about this idea at present, and there are concerns about the creation of vehicle movement within the park to transport materials in and out.

The main issue about a building is its visual appearance. Any building on this space would need to be constructed so as to create a sense of civic pride and community ownership, according to one stakeholder, and it is hard to argue with this position.



*“So long as anything doesn’t look like a Travelodge...and you are not using [existing] green space.”*

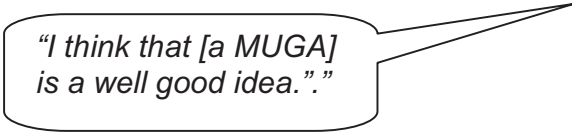
The issue is also raised about the value of retaining the existing council facilities – the depot and the college building – in the centre of a beautiful landscaped park. At least one resident would like the area available for improvement to encompass not only the propagation site but also the depot area generally, and this would have the support of at least one elected member too. The depot represents a hazard to tenants in the college, and is being used as a “bit of a dumping ground” by City Services.

### 5.3 Play space

Suggestions about using the area to provide play space receive some support. The idea of landscaping the area to provide natural, mixed-surface play space with mounds, boulders, and sand was welcomed as good idea, although some wondered whether such a facility ought to be placed nearer to the existing play area so that parents could keep an eye on their children. It is seen as offering something complementary to the existing formal play area.

A hard surface facility such as a BMX track, skateboard or similar area was also generally welcomed and parents of teenagers thought this would be very popular with their children, in spite of the risk. Adventure play was also a possibility, although there are concerns about erecting what might be a visually obtrusive structure in this space, and again concerns that it might be better located near the existing play facilities so that supervision could be provided from parents.

A multi-use games area is a very popular suggestion, especially if it could be lit with lighting shut down at specified times of night. Not everyone is familiar with the MUGA concept but there is widespread agreement about the need to provide constructive facilities for teenagers, who are seen as a neglected group in terms of park users, and a group that can be problematic if they are not distracted. One stakeholder, however, would oppose this idea as visually intrusive and noisy for local neighbours, and points out that there are such facilities nearby anyway.



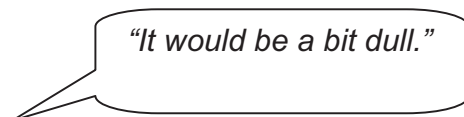
*"I think that [a MUGA] is a well good idea."."*

The school would like to extend its playground into the propagation site.

An indoor play facility was not at all popular, however, and the feeling is that there is already enough provision of this type.

## 5.4 Parks and gardens

One option for this space is simply to return it to its former place as part of the general area of the park. This would be welcomed as compensation if other parts of the site were to be re-used for other activities such as play or sports, but otherwise was not especially welcomed; there is a sense that people would feel this is a missed opportunity for improvement and enhancement of the park, and that there is already plenty of free open space.



Planting would be welcomed by some, but others feel this is not a good use of this space and suggest that formal planting is already sufficient, and informal planting could take place elsewhere on the site. There is some interest in planting of a sensory nature but again it is questionable whether this space would be the best place to site such a facility. One person suggests that the area could be used to provide a maze.

A picnic or barbeque area has support but it is noted that people manage to do this already without needing extra help or dedicated space.

There is little affection, for the dense *Leylandii* hedge that currently screens this area and whatever else happens, it would probably be a popular move to remove or replace this with something more in keeping with the park surroundings.

## 5.5 Combinations

There is some enthusiasm for not using the whole space for a single purpose. The Folk Festival would like to see the space providing a hard surface which they

desperately need for vehicles and generators, but see the possibility in other uses for that hard surface for sports provision. An art gallery/café would not be incompatible with the multi-surface play idea, in the eyes of at least one resident. There is a feeling that we should not see this space as providing one single opportunity for enhancement. Bringing the depot site into the mix would open up even further possibilities for combinations of activity and one stakeholder suggests that a Masterplan for the site should be considered.

## 6 General observations

In addition to site specific comments, many people make general observations that apply to the whole park, and these have been grouped into broad themes.

### 6.1 Paths

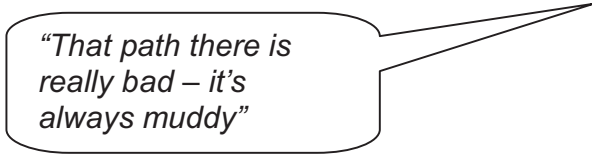
Footpaths around the site tend to be through routes and do not offer an easy circular walk around the park. They include some rough surface paths through the grassed areas and some trail-type paths in the woodland areas. Both are criticised for being muddy and at times unpleasant to use; the woodland trails come in for particular criticism, and are off limits for people with wheelchairs or heavy buggies.



*A typical Cherry Hinton path*

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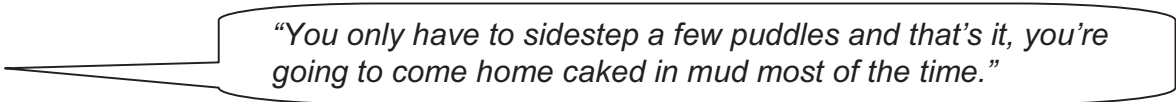
Wheelchair users find the paths difficult, and the grass impossible to negotiate properly. The path network does not seem to follow desire lines, in that there is no link between the gate in the northwestern corner and anywhere else in the north of the site, and no easy way of getting from the pond to the northwestern area without using the grass – which is what people in general do.



*“That path there is really bad – it’s always muddy”*

There is a pinch point at the main entrance where pedestrians, motorists and cyclists are all competing to use the same space.

Some residents are keen to see tarmaced paths but others are horrified at such a suggestion, and point out that a park on a wet day is bound to be muddy in places. Any solution needs to address the problem of standing water on the path surfaces, and their safety in icy conditions.



*“You only have to sidestep a few puddles and that’s it, you’re going to come home caked in mud most of the time.”*

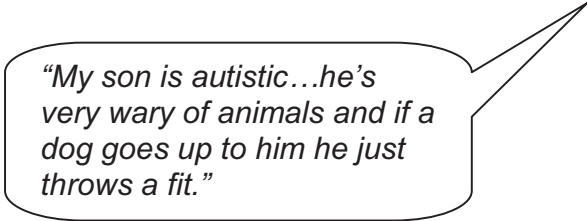
The Folk Festival would like to realign the path running north-south past the toilets to prevent it being damaged by the essential placing of the festival’s broadcast stage across it.

## 6.2 Dogs

At present, dogs run freely throughout the park, apart from those parts of the play area that are fenced off. There are no prohibitions on dogs using the wildfowl areas, for instance, and no designated areas for dog walking. Dog bin provision

is limited and is generally seen as inadequate for a site that is extensively used to exercise pets. Parents of young children complain that dogs frighten their children by running up to them, whilst those concerned about the wildfowl feel that dogs should be prohibited from disturbing the birds, especially when they are sitting on their nests.

Some residents would like to see designated areas for dogs, so that they could then avoid using these spaces. One resident does not visit at all because she is afraid of dogs.



*“My son is autistic...he’s very wary of animals and if a dog goes up to him he just throws a fit.”*

### 6.3 Seating

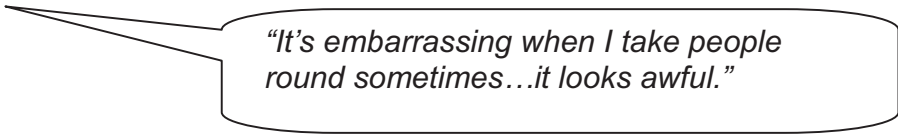
Although there is a scattering of benches across the site, the provision of seating is generally viewed as inadequate. Existing benches vary in both quality and aspect, whilst the overall numbers of benches are insufficient and their locations are not always ideal. The play area in particular needs more benches, and there is a need for picnic tables which not only support picnics but also provide opportunity for face to face chatting and conversation at all ages.

Some people worry that providing seating invites trouble from young people, but others recognise that seating meets many needs, not just those of the young, and that young people also need space to meet and socialise. One stakeholder would like to see shelters provided as well as seats, so that young people have somewhere to go in poor weather.



## 6.4 Maintenance

There are mixed views on maintenance, with some comments that the park is well cared for but others criticising areas like the emptying of bins or the cleaning of the paddling pools, and the cleaning and maintenance of the pond areas, both within and around the water. The Folk Festival generates several maintenance related comments and is criticised for causing surface damage (this seems to relate to one particular incident a few years ago) but it has also been noticed that the imminent arrival of the Folk Festival causes a flurry of maintenance to take place to smarten the site up for its more special guests.



*"It's embarrassing when I take people round sometimes...it looks awful."*

Elected members report feedback from residents on the quality of maintenance, which needs to be improved. There are also regular but limited complaints about the Folk Festival, and some are not convinced that the festival has done enough to restore the area damaged some years ago.

Members also point out that this a damp site due to the presence of underground water near the surface, and that this tends to increase potential for surface damage. Remedies such as filling collapsed areas need to be taken as early as possible after the festival to give them a chance to settle before the next event.

Tenants do not currently do maintenance at all outside their own curtilages, but the school has expressed an interest in greater involvement in the park generally.

## 6.5 Cycling

There is limited provision in the park for cyclists, although cyclists use the park extensively. Mostly, though, this seems to be for passing through rather than for

visiting as such. A new cycle rack has been provided close to the play area but awareness of this is negligible and inspection suggests that it has received very little use. There is, on the other hand, no cycle rack in or near the car park where visitors might expect to find one.

There is also little evidence of conflict between cyclists and pedestrians using the paths.

## **6.6 Safety and security**

The picture here is somewhat unclear. There does not seem to be an enormous anti-social behaviour problem in the park at any time, but nevertheless residents are wary of using the space after dark. There are reports of incidents around the pond, some graffiti around the play area, and some noise and anti-social behaviour linked to the recycling site, however, and much more serious security incidents have plagued the central buildings, with several burglaries taking place in a short space of time.

This problem now seems to have been resolved, with the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators, but security remains a concern for those using the central buildings especially after dark. Nevertheless both the school and the college are looking into CCTV as a crime prevention and security measure; they note that the cost of this would be much higher than an informal arrangement to close the gate after dark, to prevent van access. Low level lighting and bollard lighting have been considered but ruled out.

It is also unclear whether or not the park closes at dusk. Traditionally the occupier of the cottage would close at least the secondary gate after dark, preventing vehicle access, but this has been less reliable recently and seems now not to happen – perhaps because of the difficulty of having tenants working after dark in the buildings. A lack of adequate lighting on the paths to the

buildings exacerbates fears about personal safety when crossing the park after dark, and also encourages staff and visitors to the buildings to use their cars for access. Most people would support a general improvement in lighting in the park, and are not convinced by arguments about keeping the place dark so that (for instance) the sky can be observed. It is also noted that having lights doesn't mean they have to be on throughout the hours of darkness.

Police interest in the park is largely responsive and low key, moving kids on and dealing informally with issues as much as possible. The park is not seen as a problem site by police now that the burglaries have been tackled.

There is at present no information on site about emergency support or contact numbers.

## **6.7 Community involvement**

Although there is at present no constituted friends' group for this park, there is already some community involvement as evidenced by the informal clean up of the pond organised by concerned local residents. Some of those taking part in the consultation expressed interest in being involved in practical ways on the future of the park and this suggests that there would be potential for setting up a friends' group to support the Council in its management of the site and to act as a liaison between the different interest in the park and the local community. The Cambridge Preservation Society has expressed an interest in helping to establish a Friends' group here.

The school teaches gardening as part of its curriculum and has expressed an interest in working on the floral garden area. There are also possible linkages between the college's horticultural courses, the school, and the grounds. However, the school does not want to use the former propagation centre site for its proposed allotment.

Although the watercourses in the park are managed by the City Council, Cambridge Water would also have an interest in any improvement scheme, especially one that might have a bearing on water quality.

There are also plans to develop a green pathway network linking areas of the city with nearby countryside such as Limekiln Close Nature Reserve, and beyond into the Gog Magog hills, and Cherry Hinton Hall would fit very well into this network, albeit with some realignment of paths and entrances. The Cambridge Preservation Society is taking an active interest in these proposals.

## 7 Stakeholder interests

Like other major open spaces in the city, Cherry Hinton Hall is used for some significant events during the course of the year. There are also some existing commitments affecting the park which need to be taken into account when considering improvement. Event stakeholders and other influencing factors are set out here.

### 7.1 The Folk Festival

One of the most significant uses of Cherry Hinton Hall is its hosting of the annual Cambridge Folk Festival, a high profile music event which attracts a large audience into the park and an even larger audience through national broadcast coverage on BBC Radio 2. This event takes place in late July every year over a four day period, and the park is closed for other uses during the festival itself; some areas of the site are closed to allow for setting up and breaking down before and after the event. Access to the park during the Festival requires purchase of a ticket.

The Folk Festival is an important event artistically, and in terms of the city's profile in the music community, but it also has a significant impact on the local economy, especially in Cherry Hinton itself. In addition, the organisers claim that the festival makes a substantial financial surplus which is used to support other arts and entertainments activities over the course of the year, and which also provides general revenue for the authority.

The event is attended by around 14,000 people in total, although the site capacity limits ticket sales to 10,000 maximum on any one day. Visitors include local people but the festival attracts a national, and even an international, audience. These figures suggest that a large proportion of visitors attend over the full weekend, and although a large number of visitors camp in the park and

use the catering, drinks and other services offered by concession stands, the impact on the local economy is nonetheless significant. Local people comment anecdotally that Cherry Hinton village shops benefit significantly from the influx of people looking for food, catered meals and alcohol, and other services, and the garage on the opposite side of Cherry Hinton Road also seems to do well from the presence of large numbers of people nearby. This impact has not been quantified in financial terms but must be substantial, and a significant contributor to maintaining the current level and variety of services available in Cherry Hinton.

The event nevertheless presents significant logistical problems, and these include the need for parking; the car park on site holds very few vehicles, and vehicles (other than essential services) are banned from the park for safety reasons. Existing parking arrangements involving the use of nearby school and open space sites will require revision in the next few years as a local school site is redeveloped. In addition, the space available for production vehicles such as Outside Broadcast vehicles, electricity supply vehicles, artists' and concession holders' vehicles is limited and this is a pressure point for the organisers.

Restoration of the site after the festival is recognised as a key responsibility and significant effort has been put into minimise litter and to restore the site from the inevitable (but heavily weather dependant) surface damage caused by large numbers of people. The festival organisers suggest (and local people tend to confirm) that their presence leads to improvements on the site, with maintenance regimes being stepped up as the site is prepared, and repairs set in hand immediately after the event. However, local people still comment on surface damage and this seems to link back to a previous year (2000?) when the weather was exceptionally bad, and from which some people think the site has not fully recovered even now.

Electricity supply to the festival comes from generators which are acknowledged as causing both noise and pollution, and which are demanding in terms of space.

There is a substation on the site but it is inadequate as an alternative supply source without a significant upgrade. Water is polypiped around the site from the central buildings; waste is partly drained into mains sewers and partly stored for removal.

## **7.2 Other events**

Cherry Hinton Hall also hosts an annual Pink Festival, organised by a local voluntary group as a celebration of the city's gay and lesbian diversity but promoted as an open public event for general attendance and enjoyment. Although this is a large scale event, it does not present the technical and logistical complexities of the Folk Festival and its one-day, non-residential nature means that its adverse impact on surfaces or facilities is much more limited.

## **7.3 Lottery funded improvements**

Cambridge City Council has already, through its CHYPPS team, secured National Lottery funding for two improvements at Cherry Hinton Hall. These have already been consulted on separately and commitments have been made to proceed with these alterations; we were careful in the consultation not to invite people to comment specifically on the plans, as these are already approved (in fact, as is shown elsewhere in the report, people's views would tend to support what is planned).

One of the improvements is in the former bird sanctuary, where it is envisaged that the area would be set aside as a breeding area for wildfowl, protected by its isolation (it is an island) and by adequate security and limited access. The site would also be used as a natural play site for small and carefully managed groups

of children and young people. Implementation of this plan awaits the outcome of tree examination and a health and safety assessment but will take place shortly.

The other scheduled improvement is the creation of play trails in the woodland area, starting near the bridge, to encourage further use of the natural space and to make it more attractive to users. This plan provides new benches and a refreshed barbeque area as well as improved surfaces and accessibility, and woodland interpretation. The plans also include a “secret trail” with hidden sculptures and natural play equipment sited sensitively between the trees. Consultation on this plan restarts in January 2009 and culminates in a workshop event in the Spring.



## 8 Conclusions and recommendations

- 1 This is a valued site and should be treated as such. There is no evidence to support wholesale change in a park that is valued and used by local people and also by those coming from much further afield. Nevertheless, there is also strong support for changes to certain aspects of the park, and little evidence of the “protect at all costs” attitudes that characterise other parks in Cambridge. On the whole, people welcome the Council’s interest in their park and look forward to improvement.
  
- 2 A consideration that has existed throughout this study is the relationship between the needs of the once-a-year folk festival and the everyday needs of local residents. Mostly, these interests coincide, in that both see value in a site which offers a pleasant and enjoyable natural environment, well maintained and easily accessed, and with a range of features and facilities for visitors. Generally there is an acceptance of the folk festival, albeit grudgingly because it closes the park and makes a bit of noise, and a recognition of the importance of the event for the local economy. The issues the Folk Festival raises are largely around damage, and this seems to relate to historic rather than current activity, and there is evidence that maintenance improves in the park as a result of the festival.
  
- 3 The Festival would like to use the propagation centre space as a hard surfaced space for parking broadcast vehicles and power generators. The Festival considers this essential but it is not clear whether the BBC has a long term commitment to broadcasting the event, or whether improvements to the power supply on the site could obviate the need for generator equipment. This should be investigated further.

- 4 The most enthusiastically received option for reusing the former propagation centre is to provide a MUGA or similar games area for teenagers. This would be widely welcomed, but has influential opponents as well. One possible solution that might address the concerns of objectors, and also address the Folk Festival's needs, is to provide an informal hard, or dirt, surface which could be used for imaginative ball games, perhaps with goals or hoops at each end, or could have temporary and removable BMX or skateboard facilities, but which would also be robust enough to take the Folk Festival's vehicles when needed. It is unlikely that a MUGA surface to Sport England standards would be robust enough to bear the weight of the Folk Festival's requirements, so a MUGA would not be a solution to this conundrum even if its fences and lights could be removed to allow vehicle access.
  
- 5 A building would not be universally welcomed on the propagation centre site, but there would be interest in a facility that offered a café to visitors. It may be helpful to undertake a quick visitor study to ascertain the commercial viability of such a venture and the feasibility of making this available commercially as a concession (or even allowing the Friends Group to manage it as a fundraising activity). Any building would have to be much more carefully designed than the existing college facility to ensure that it added to the visual amenity rather than compromising it.
  
- 6 Use of the propagation centre site for social or economic purposes, such as those suggested in the consultation, is not recommended. Although this would be in keeping with both the last use of the site, and the activity of the college next door, this does not seem to have the public support it would need, and is not really in keeping with the site as a whole.

- 7 Use of the space for play has supporters, especially for rough-and-tumble type play involving mounds, mixed surfaces, and other “natural” features such as boulders to climb. However, there is a view that play should be located close to existing play facilities rather than here.
- 8 Returning the propagation centre to the park generally is not a popular option and would be seen by many as a missed opportunity to do something constructive with the space to meet genuine local need.
- 9 Although there is little awareness of the lottery funding allocated to improvements in the pond and woodland areas of the park, this consultation would tend to support the planned improvements, at least in terms of clearing and tidying a neglected area and improving paths and amenity in this part of the park. The lack of community awareness of these plans, though, should be noted and tackled.
- 10 Action is needed to protect wildlife from predation and persecution. Whilst some predation, such as by herons, would be difficult to eliminate, wildfowl nests should be protected from foxes, from dogs, and from human disturbance. Activity to recreate the former bird reserve as a protected area might well address all these concerns.
- 11 The pond and watercourses require attention. An ecological study should be undertaken to ensure that water and water’s edge habitats are free from contamination, and action should be taken to remove rats from this area. The knowledge that children may be paddling in the pond should alert the Council to its potential liabilities for illness and injury, particularly in the form of disease from contaminated water, and a programme of testing should be put in place. It may be necessary to erect warning signs.

- 12 There is great interest in the wildfowl and other wildlife in the pond and woodland area, but no interpretation that would heighten awareness and enjoyment; some interpretation is planned as part of the CHYPPS programme but this should extend into the general public realm as well.
- 13 The initiative taken by local people to clean up the pond is welcomed but presents issues to the council – why was such action needed, and was this a safe thing for the public to do? At the very least it calls water maintenance into serious question and this needs to be reviewed urgently. We understand that Active Communities is currently undertaking a study of watercourses under their control, and this one should be brought closer to the top of the priority list.
- 14 The toilet block should be closed and demolished and replaced by something fit for purpose, clean and hygienic. If possible, the toilets should be relocated closer to the play area, although it is recognised that mains sewerage may prohibit this. New toilets should incorporate facilities for visitors with disabilities.
- 15 Play provision for younger children is limited and should be improved with a wider, more imaginative and more challenging play focus. The provision for older children should also be improved and a better, more exciting zip line would be welcomed.
- 16 Maintenance is repeatedly identified as an area where the council is underperforming. This comes across in the pond and woodland area, in the toilet facilities, and in the upkeep of the paddling pools, as well as in general grounds care. There is a perception that the park gets its best maintenance in preparation for the folk festival, and that this is

provided by the festival rather than as part of a routine maintenance programme.

- 17 More seating, and seating of better quality, is required in the play area and in the park generally.
- 18 Notice boards providing information for visitors and offering emergency contact details are needed at the main entrance and at the play area.
- 19 The existing car park is adequate and should not be expanded. However, the recycling facility is not needed in a park context and should be resited to another location outside the park. Residents in houses bordering the car park area should be told that this is being done.
- 20 Pathways require improvement and new surfacing sensitive to the surrounding environment should be considered. The request of the folk festival to realign the north-south path west of the depot could be considered within this path improvement. Better lighting is needed on the main paths, especially the one leading to the central buildings. Tenants do not at present feel safe leaving work at night. These lights should not remain on all night, however.
- 21 Consideration should be given to the removal of all depot activity from this site; there seems little justification for retaining a depot store here in the middle of an attractive public park. The space occupied by the depot store should be brought into the mix for possible reuse alongside the former propagation site. The remaining polytunnels should be removed.

- 22 The floral garden in front of the hall should be opened up and made a more attractive feature of the park with a mix of plants providing seasonal colour. The offer from the school to assist with this area should be considered as part of a wider community engagement plan for the site.
- 23 There is scope for wildflower planting, or for spring bulbs, in the south eastern corner of the site and along the northern edge, but planting should be limited and should not intrude on the essentially parkland character of the site.
- 24 The potential of the park as a location for public art should be considered, and artwork commissioned for specific sites within the park to promote accidental and serendipitous encounters with public art.
- 25 Better locations should be sought for cycle parking, and more information provided so that cyclists are aware of these facilities.
- 26 The heritage value of the site, and its place in the history of the local community, is significantly understated and this should be remedied both by improving information about the park on the Council's website, and in other literature, and by the provision of interpretative material at key locations such as at the main entrance or close to the hall. Local historians should be invited to contribute to this process as part of the Council's commitment to community engagement.
- 27 There is sufficient enthusiasm for the site to justify the creation of a Friends Group and the Council should follow up on this to enable such a group to be formed. The support offered by the CPS should be noted in this context. Formation of such a group should take place

before a decision is made on the vacant site, to enable resident involvement and to prevent any appearance of a fait accompli.

***Phil Back  
Wetherby  
January 2009***

## Appendix: Action planning

This section of the report summarises, in bullet form, the various action points raised in the consultation and identified in discussion with the City Council. For convenience, these are divided into two sections: the first, those which can be acted on immediately, with little or no further discussion and with little or no resource outside existing budgets and contracts, and the second, those areas where action may require further thought, consultation or even negotiation before any definitive action can be taken. The purpose here is to enable those changes which are relatively easy, and which have little strategic consequence, to be addressed without waiting for the more difficult decisions to be taken.

<b>Immediate or quick actions</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Report section</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Signage and interpretation – improve the information and interpretation available to visitors	3.2, 4.6	Possible activity for a Friends Group
Repair damaged fence in wildfowl area	4.1	May be addressed in Chypps project
Protect nests and other sensitive sites from predators and from human/canine disturbance	4.1	May be addressed in Chypps project
Remove rats from site	4.1	
Test water quality and take action if required	4.1	Active Communities programme under way but priorities may



		need to be changed
Remove or resite barbecue area	4.1	May be addressed in Chypps project
Constitute Friends Group and set terms of reference to include Clean up and site management Interpretation and information Consultation on future, more difficult actions	Numerous, but especially 6.7	Several people from initial consultation interested in this
Address woodland management issues	4.2	May be addressed in Chypps project
Ban motorcycling and ensure path surfaces are brought back to required condition		
Refurbish and renew toilet block	4.3	Neither quick nor easy, but a high priority with universal support
Relocate the recycling centre off site	4.6	
Improve the numbers and locations of seats	4.8, 6.3	
Remove the Leylandii hedge	5.4	
Improve traffic flows at the main entrance and ensure personal safety for all users	6.1	
Improve general routine maintenance on the site, and address ground water drainage and collapsed areas	6.4	

Install a cycle rack where it will be useful – near the entrance	6.5	
Explore arrangements for closing the gates to ensure the needs of tenants and visitors are properly met.	6.6	
Improve lighting, especially on main access routes to the central buildings	6.6	
Raise awareness of existing plans for the woodland and pond area		Chypps already have an event planned for this

<b>More thinking required</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Report section</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Are the toilets sited well for those who use them? Should they be moved, or are additional, child friendly toilets needed near the play space? How are people with disabilities to be addressed in toilet provision?	4.3	
Is it possible to provide equipment hire facilities for city park opportunities like tennis and other courts?		Possible activity for Friends Group?
How can facilities in this park be improved for people (adults as well as children) with disabilities?	4.5, 6.1	
Can basic changing facilities for the paddling pool be provided?	4.5	
Should dogs be banned from some parts of	4.6	

the site?		
What could make better use of the south-eastern corner?	4.8	
Is the propagation centre space big enough to accommodate a variety of uses? Could it house both an arts space and a “sports” type space which could also serve the Folk Festival?	5	
Is the depot space really needed? Does it have to be here?	5.2	
A cafe may not be viable as a formal concession, but the Friends Group might like to provide it as a revenue raiser and social opportunity. A model exists for this.	5.2	
The park doesn't meet the needs of younger people terribly well, but addressing those needs may increase take up by a group that can be disruptive to other park users and neighbours.	6.3	
Would a technical upgrade to the existing substation be a feasible alternative to the use of noisy, polluting generator equipment during events?	7.1	

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## Appendix E – Estimated Costings for Cherry Hinton Hall Masterplan Proposals

### Part 1: Hard and Soft Landscape Masterplan Objectives

1. Buildings	Total (£)
(a) New Public Toilets / Café (similar to Gonville Place), inc. demolition of old toilet block and architects fees.	300,000
(b) New Kiosk by the lakes, inc. 2 toilet cubicles.	80,000
(c) New underground foul waste tank, 3 phase pump and 150mm pumping main to Cherry Hinton Road (Used by Folk Festival).	20,000
(d) New paddling pool pump house. Removal of old building and replacement over existing pits and Pumps.	20,000
2. Fencing, Seats & Benches	
(a) Removal of majority of old depot fence and hedge. Reuse some fencing along new secure area boundary. Chipping old privet hedge on site.	7,500
(b) Park Benches Allow 20 seats at £1,000.	20,000
(c) Bandstand – semi circular. 12m base.	4,200
(d) Circular paved area by the Lakes Kiosk 22m diameter. 'Plastic' boardwalk and 'plastic' dipping platform.	8,000
(e) Fibre deck paths with 150x50mm concrete kerbs. Extra thick to highway standard. 310 linear metres 2.5m wide 700 linear metres 2 m wide	162,000
(f) Carstone paths – 1.5m wide, 625 linear metres.	40,625
(g) New Tarmac path – 2m wide footpath standard only. But in low area – includes making up surrounding area with soil.	4,000
3. Soft Landscape	
(h) Special pre-cast recycled stone curved seating, circular area by Lake Kiosk.	20,000
(i) Dredging the lakes. Enlarge central island. New timber piles	200,000
(j) Trees & landscaping	75,000

<b>Total:</b>	961,325.00
<b>10% Contingencies:</b>	<u>96,132.50</u>
<b>Overall Total (£):</b>	1,057,457.50

### Part 2: Service Depot Buildings – desirable changes

1. Visitor Centre	Total (£)
(a) New Visitor Centre, approx 24m x 10m. 2 storey inc. toilets, kitchen, heating, clock tower, large double oak gates, pair iron gates. Demolition of Atcost building.	430,000
(b) Remove old depot concrete. New bays, tarmac etc. Work not determined.	20,000

**Total:** 450,000

**Grand Total (Parts 1 & 2): £1,507,457.50**

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To: Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation  
Report by: Head of Streets & Open Spaces  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 14/10/2010

## **Cambridge Allotments – A Management Policy Key Decision**

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 Cambridge Allotments – A Management Policy (Management Policy) was previously considered at Community Services Scrutiny Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- 1.2 The Management Policy highlights the value and role of those allotments managed by the Council in contributing to corporate Medium Term Objectives and the guiding principles of the Cambridge Environmental Framework.<sup>1</sup> It provides the Council with a strategic approach to the management of its allotment assets.
- 1.3 Allotments are an important asset to the City of Cambridge, providing a wide range of benefits to local communities and the environment. They are valuable green sustainable open spaces, which benefit wildlife and provide recreational activity that offers healthy exercise, and social contact at a low cost. They are also readily accessible to those members of the community who find themselves socially or economically disadvantaged.
- 1.4 Background research for this Management Policy identifies key national, regional as well as local influences and gives clarity on the complexities of managing allotments. By understanding these key requirements, the Council will prioritise service needs, improvements and investments by allocating available resources.
- 1.5 A Review of Allotment Provision (Review of Allotments) was completed this year by the City Council and Ashley Godfrey Associates, and was used to inform this Management Policy.

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<sup>1</sup> Cambridge Environmental Framework  
<http://intranet.ccc.local/suscity/policies/Cambridge%20Environmental%20Framework.pdf>

- 1.6 The Review of Allotment Provision, has given the City Council a clear, and up to date, picture of the city's allotments, looking not only at how much space it has have, but also at what the City Council needs to do now, and in the future, to safeguard and improve allotment provision as the City grows.
- 1.7 Consultation was approved by the Executive Councillor to determine the degree of support for the Management Policy; recommendations and objectives. This report details the feedback from respondents, and provides evidence of a broad support for the recommendations and objectives contained within the Management Policy.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 The Executive Councillor is recommended to: -

- a) Approve the Management Policy and its recommendations;
- b) Instruct Officers to develop an action plan to deliver the Management Policy's objectives, with a priority focused on addressing supply and demand;
- c) Instruct Officers to develop further the Allotment Management Procedures; and
- d) Approve the allocations policy for new provision in major growth sites.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Community Services Committee approved a report on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010 Cambridge Allotments – A Management Policy which set out what Cambridge City Council wants to achieve from its allotment provision in the City. It considered future needs and detailed how this would be achieved and the resources that will be required to implement the recommendations and objectives.
- 3.2 The Management Policy was approved for consultation; and Officers were instructed to obtain feedback on the recommendations and objectives contained within it.
- 3.3 Allotments and allotment gardening feature in several other Cambridge City Council strategies and plans including the Parks Asset Management Plan 2010-2014, the Open Space and Recreation Strategy and the Cambridge Local Plan 2006.
- 3.4 There are over 1,300 allotment plots in Cambridge, on 23 different sites, throughout the city. Overall, around one in twelve plots are uncultivated at the moment. The waiting lists for allotments add up to a total of over 500 names.



- 3.5 Even though we know that some people are on the list for more than one site, there is clearly an unmet demand for plots.
- 3.6 The City Council owns 22 allotment sites, and manages eight of these directly; allotment associations manage the remainder.
- 3.7 The City Council has reduced the size of its standard plots so as to make more space available for people, and to try and reduce the waiting list; this policy has been quite effective, and most of the associations have also done this.
- 3.8 The City Council is responsible for regulation on its own sites, whilst allotment societies manage their sites under an agreement with the Council.
- 3.9 Site quality varies quite widely. Some sites have good water supply, but some others do not. Some have high cultivation levels, but a few have derelict plots. Just over half of all plots have a shed, but this also varies widely from one site to another. Larger sites may have communal sheds and some sell gardening supplies.
- 3.10 Most sites have little or no provision for disabled people. People with disabilities would have problems getting into some sites, and also getting around sites once inside them.
- 3.11 Partnership working between the City Council and Allotment Associations, sharing responsibilities through devolved management, has contributed significantly to increasing the level of participation in allotment gardening throughout the City and to the delivery of the wider benefits that the City Council regards as important. Local communities have an important stake in the future for allotments, ensuring they managed efficiently and effectively
- 3.12 The aim is to create management policies that will maximise the use allotments and the contributions they can make.

#### **4. Consultation Feedback and Findings**

- 4.1 A questionnaire including a summary of the Management Policy was sent to stakeholders on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. The questionnaire was made more widely available on the City Council website as a downloadable form and as an online version. A display with questionnaires was present at the Town and Country Show held on Parkers Piece on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September. The consultation closed on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

- 4.2 The Council consulted on the following: -
- the need to meet both current and future demand;
  - improvements to the quality of provision;
  - improvements to the management and administration of allotment sites;
  - safe and secure allotment sites;
  - sustainable practices;
  - promotion of allotments; and
  - an allocation policy for allotments on growth sites.

4.3 A total of 85 responses were received of which 8 were from organisations. The number of responses is low compared to an earlier consultation associated with the Review of Allotments where 60% of the 1600 plot holders questioned replied. This low response is considered to be a reflection that the Management Policy correctly interpreted the findings from the earlier Review of Allotments. Consultation has shown that the Management Policy is supported.

#### 4.4 Demand

Evidence from the Review of Allotments suggested; waiting lists are long, and are growing, and new housing will only increase demand (while also reducing the available land for new allotments).

Consultation results would support the following actions: -

That the Council: -

- Protects existing sites from development;
- Looks at underused open space to see if it is suitable for turning into new allotments; and
- Actively looks for new allotment sites.

The City Council can maximise the use of existing allotment sites, by

- Speeding up the re-allocation of unused or abandoned plots

There is some but limited support for reducing the plot size for new plots, from the traditional 10 rod plot to 5 rods for instance.

#### 4.5 Quality

The Review of Allotments and consultation have provided helpful feedback on allotment quality, detailing that poorly maintained sites, with unused or unkempt plots, are not only unsightly but increase dereliction and encourage vandalism.

It is also important that allotments are accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities.

The Consultation has shown that it is important to ensure sites are both welcoming and accessible by: -

- Making entrances welcoming, with good signs and notice boards, and keeping them clear of rubbish (94% of respondents agree)
- Improving access into sites, and within sites (80% of respondents agree)
- Working with allotment groups and tenants to clear up unsightly and neglected areas (96% of respondents agree)
- Improving maintenance of sheds, fences and other boundaries (94% of respondents agree)
- Improving water supplies (86% of respondents agree)
- Providing communal composting facilities (79% agree), and
- Encouraging the removal of non-compostable waste (99% of respondents agree)

There was however opposition to making improvements for safe and secure parking.

4.5.1 Consultees believe that it will be helpful to have a quality standard for our allotments, which will help everyone to know what's expected, and will mean that we can be held to account when sites fall below this standard. (74% of respondents agree). However, the point is also made that this should not be a tick-box exercise to promote homogeneity, but rather a minimum acceptable standard that allows a diverse and varied use of sites within defined quality boundaries.

#### 4.6 Management

The consultation has shown that the City Council should ensure that it provides the best possible service for tenants, within the limits of our budgets. Our management service should be at least as good as other local authorities with allotment teams. It is recommended that: -

New procedures are introduced that: -

- make it clear what is required of allotment tenants (86% of respondents agree);
- improve rent collection and the application of concessions (67% of respondents agree);
- manage waiting lists and reallocate vacant plots more efficiently (88% of respondents agree); and
- deal with enforcement of rules and take action when things go wrong (86% of respondents agree).

Evidence from the consultation would support the view that the City Council can make more progress if officers work more closely with tenants by: -

- Improving communication and consultation with allotment associations and with individual tenants;
- Have a regular forum where officers' and associations' can meet to discuss issues;
- Offering to delegate site management, under a formal agreement, to allotment associations where possible;
- Creating more opportunities for tenants and associations to get involved in site management, and in the way we run the service generally;
- Providing a new tenancy agreement, and make this easy to understand, so that everyone understands their rights and responsibilities.

#### 4.7 Allocations Policy for new provision Growth Sites

Consultees considered a new policy for allocating plots on sites derived from housing growth areas. It is recommended that this would give priority, for up to 8 years, to residents of the development, and if demand exceeds supply, we can reduce the size of plots to try and give everyone who wants an allotment some space. If there is vacant space, we may allocate it to residents of other areas on a temporary basis, which will allow us to prioritise local residents in these areas for the first eight years. The allocations policy is detailed at Appendix A.

There is support for the principle of giving priority to local people in new housing areas, but respondents are less enthusiastic about reduced plot sizes, and especially about temporary allocations to others – though neither of these approaches attracts outright opposition, views are more guarded.

#### 4.8 Safety and security

One major concern raised during the research for this Management Policy was safety and security of sites. Consultation has shown support for the following:-

- Carrying out a safety and security check on each site every year;
- Liaising with police and community safety staff to alert them to problems on sites;
- Keeping sites free from dog fouling, and ensuring dogs are kept under control;
- Providing guidance to tenants on the keeping of livestock, to make clear what livestock are permitted on site, and what standards of care are expected; and

- Promoting best practice in health and safety on all the sites.

#### 4.9 Sustainability

The Review of Allotments highlighted an obligation to ensure that what we do today does not harm the environment or waste natural resources. It's especially important that allotments provide examples of good practice in this area, so it is recommended that the City Council: -

- Encourage natural methods of pest control, and “green manures”;
- Encourage organic gardening to protect the soil;
- Reduce the need for mains water by encouraging rainwater collection and storage; and
- Promote better ways of dealing with organic waste, and recycling or reusing other waste.

#### 4.10 Promotion

There are researched and documented benefits of working an allotment include better diets, more exercise, social opportunities, and a better understanding of nature, and allotments also provide open space and space for wildlife to thrive. It is recommended to: -

- Promote and advertise the benefits of allotments more widely;
- Provide information on methods of gardening, to help people make more of their allotments; and
- Promote “garden sharing”, where people are encouraged to offer parts of their own gardens to growers (this would help people who can't manage their gardens, for instance).

#### 4.11 Priority Areas

Respondents to the consultation were asked to detail two aims of the Management Policy that would make the biggest positive difference. The following table details the responses.

Managing and meeting demand	82%
Improving sustainability	32%
Improving our management and enforcement procedures	26%
Improve site quality	24%
Improving safety and security	16%
Promoting the benefits of allotment gardening more widely	8%

#### 4.12 Conclusions

There is broad consensus and support for the Management Policy. The main priority for the Management Policy should be to consider solutions to overcome supply and demand issues.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

The provision of allotments and monies towards allotments is only formally required in the urban extensions. It would not be permissible in terms of the parameters of the existing policy documents and the Planning Circular 05/05 Planning Obligations for monies for informal open space to be used to support allotment provision or improvement within the City.

A review of the funding criteria for Environmental Improvements is being considered by the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth.

The Management Policy considered funding at paragraph 6.9 onwards

### **5.2 Staffing Implications**

None currently identified

### **5.3 Equal Opportunities Implications**

A stage one equality impact assessment is being undertaken, and results will be reported at Committee. Access issues at some sites have already been noted and the policy seeks to address this issue.

### **5.4 Environmental Implications**

Allotments make a contribution to sustainability by promoting and facilitating composting, and can be managed in ways that demonstrate sustainable practices such as rain water collection, the use of green technologies e.g. composting toilets, and the reuse, recycling or reclamation of waste products

### **5.5 Community Safety Implications**

None

## **6. Background papers**

These following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Brief for the Review of Allotment Provision
- Review of Allotment Provision by Ashley Godfrey Associates, January 2010

- Report by Phil Back Associates on the Management Policy Consultation 2010
- Allotments Guide Supplement – Local Government Association 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010
- Cambridge Allotments – A Management Policy

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix A – Allocations Policy for New Provision

## **8. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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## **Appendix A - Draft allotments allocation policy for growth sites**

### **1. Principles**

- 1.1 Priority for allotments will be given to residents of that growth site until twelve years after the completion of that site.
- 1.2 Residents in later stages of the build out of the growth site should not be disadvantaged by all plots having already been allocated.
- 1.3 The majority of the allotment site should be fully cultivated throughout the development of the growth site.
- 1.4 If actual demand for allotments exceeds supply, the sizes of plots let will be adapted and opportunities explored to provide more allotments.
- 1.5 Any surplus supply should be offered to 'non growth site' applicants on a temporary basis.
- 1.6 Allotments will be managed in accordance with the approved Allotments Management Policy.
- 1.7 In the absence of an allotment society, the City Council or successor will be responsible for allocation.
- 1.8 This allocation policy shall be kept under review and revised as appropriate.

### **2 Allocation Policy (see definitions below)**

- 2.1 Only applicants living on the growth site will be allocated plots on a permanent basis until 12 years after the completion of the growth site.
- 2.2 During the build out of the growth site, the following procedure will be followed in February of each year:
  - a) The appropriate proportion of the allotment site will be allocated on a permanent basis. This annual supply will

be calculated as defined below. If the actual demand exceeds the annual supply, permanent allocations will be made after a ballot on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

- b) Any applicant from the growth site failing to achieve a permanent allocation through the ballot shall be given a temporary allocation if available, by further ballot if necessary.
- c) Applicants from the growth site unsuccessful in two previous ballots for a permanent allocation will be given a permanent allocation, without the use of a ballot.
- d) Priority can be given to Community Group applications linked with the growth site without ballot, either as a temporary or permanent basis.
- e) Applicants not from the growth sites will be given temporary allocations if there are vacancies on the site after all the allocations have been made to residents of the growth site.
- f) If there are vacancies on the site, applicants after February will be given a temporary contract until the following February.

2.3 For the first 8 years following completion of the growth site, permanent allocations will be given to residents of that site as plots become available. If necessary, a waiting list shall be set up. On 1 February of each year, if there are vacancies on the site after all the allocations have been made to residents of the growth site, temporary allocations will be made to non-residents. Residents of both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire will have equal access to the waiting list.

2.4 After 12 years from the completion of the growth site, allocation is open to all. It may be appropriate to vary this on a site by site basis if this is justified, for example there could be a separate policy on the allotments provided in association with University key workers to take into account that the residents will generally be on short term tenancy agreements.

### 3 **Definitions**

**Growth Sites** – Trumpington Meadows, Clay Farm, Glebe Farm, Bell School, NIAB and NIAB Extra, North West University, and Cambridge East.

**Completion** – Date of completion of last dwelling.

**Potential Demand** – Number of Properties still to be completed within the growth site / Years of anticipated future build out = Potential applicants per year.

**Actual Demand** – Number of residents seeking allotment plots each year.

**Annual Supply** – Area of allotment site remaining / Years of anticipated build out from that time = Available area per annum.

**Temporary Allocation** – Allocation for a period up to the 1<sup>st</sup> February on the following year.

**Permanent Allocation** – an allocation until such times as the applicant surrenders their plot. This can be an allocation of full, half or any proportion of an allotment plot;

**Allotment Society** – a collective of allotment holders usually a constituted group administering the allotment site, under licence.

**Community Group** – a collective of residents linked with the growth site with a constitution with stated aims and objectives.

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### Project Appraisal and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation

<b>Project Name</b>	Kelsey Kerridge Climbing wall project – Additional funding request
<b>Committee</b>	Community Services
<b>Portfolio</b>	Arts & Recreation
<b>Committee Date</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
<b>Executive Councilor</b>	Councilor Rod Cantrill
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Ross

### Recommendation/s

#### Financial recommendations –

The Executive Councillor is asked to;

- Approve an additional £30,000 funded from Formal Open Space S106 contributions for this scheme, which is already included in the Capital Plan (SC452), subject to resources being available to fund the total cost of £90,000.
- There are no additional revenue implications.

## 1 Summary

### 1.1 The project

Approval to grant S106 contributions to fund the installation of a climbing wall at Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall was given March 2010.

A revised project to include the additional feature of a large bouldering facility at a further cost of £30,000 is now proposed.

Target Start date	<b>November 2010</b>
Target completion date	<b>December 2010</b>

### 1.2 The Cost

Total Capital Cost	<b>£ 90,000</b>
--------------------	-----------------

Capital Cost Funded from:

Funding:	Amount:	Details:
Reserves	<b>£ 0</b>	<i>N/a</i>
Repairs & Renewals	<b>£ 0</b>	<i>N/a</i>
Section 106	<b>£ 90,000</b>	<b><i>Formal Open Space</i></b>
Other		

Revenue Cost – met by Kelsey Kerridge

Year 1	£0
Ongoing	£0

### **1.3 The Procurement**

Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall Trust has tendered the above works and is looking to award the works to “Zig Zag Climbing walls”.

### **Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report**

#### **1.4 What is the project?**

The previously approved project was to provide a new climbing wall and overhang in Kelsey Kerridge. Approved funds totalled £60,000 from S106 Formal Open Space contributions.

The project remains the same as the previous report, but a new feature of a bouldering facility is being added at a cost of £30,000 to make best use of the space available and provide a diverse climbing experience.

New regulations about the size of crash mats mean that the multi-use space within the climbing wall room is now required for the larger crash matting and a smaller, unusable space is left.

To make best use of this space a bouldering wall facility has been added to the project and additional funds of £30,000 are requested to fund this additional and unique facility for Cambridge.

### **1.5 What are the aims & objectives of the project?**

Main objective is to extend and update the climbing wall provision within the Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall to maximise the potential of the facilities.

This contributes to the Council's Vision for:

- 'A city which is diverse and tolerant, values activities which bring people together and where everyone feels they have a stake in the community
- A city which draws inspiration from its iconic historic centre and achieves a sense of place in all of its parts with generous urban open spaces and well designed buildings.'

### **1.6 Summarise the major issues for stakeholders & other departments?**

The current facilities, although usable, are not very demanding, offer little advanced climbing experience, are very dated compared to other indoor climbing facilities, and are below the expectation of sports and leisure facilities today.

Disabled provision and access to this facility will be enhanced allowing a range of disabled users that would otherwise not be able to access the experiences of climbing and bouldering.

### **1.7 Summarise key risks associated with the project**

Loss of facilities for Cambridge residents

- the current indoor provision is dated and unchallenging to regular users. Attendance and usage figures for current facilities within the Kelsey Kerridge centre have declined and some local climbing clubs are choosing to travel to facilities outside of Cambridgeshire to participate in their sport.
- If not updated and enhanced within the next couple of years this migration of existing users and clubs could lead to the demise of the sport within the City.

Repayment of S106 contributions

- there is the possibility that funds may be returned if this project is not delivered.

## 1.8 Financial implications

- a. Appraisal prepared on the following price base: **2010/11**
- b. Submitted designs upto the cost of £90,000

## 1.9 Capital & Revenue costs

<b>(a) Capital</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Building contractor / works		
Purchase of vehicles, plant & equipment		
Professional / Consultants fees		
IT Hardware/Software		
Other capital expenditure	90,000	Grant to KK
<b>Total Capital Cost</b>	<b>£90,000</b>	

<b>(b) Revenue</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Existing provision	£0	
Future maintenance -	£0	
<b>Total Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£0</b>	

## 1.10 VAT implications

There are No VAT issues.

## 1.11 Other implications

There are no other implications.

## 1.12 Estimate of staffing resource required to deliver the project

Staff resources will be from the Recreation team, to monitor the progression of works and onsite H&S checks.

## 1.13 Identify any dependencies upon other work or projects

There are no other dependencies on this project.



### **1.14 Background Papers**

- Previously approved project appraisal
- New design and provision from Zig Zag climbing walls

### **1.15 Inspection of papers**

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Date prepared:	17/08/2010

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### Project Appraisal and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation

<b>Project Name</b>	Cambridge Canoe Club extension project – Additional funding request
<b>Committee</b>	Community Services
<b>Portfolio</b>	Arts & Recreation
<b>Committee Date</b>	14 October 2010
<b>Executive Councilor</b>	Councilor Rod Cantrill
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Ross

### Recommendation/s

#### Financial recommendations –

The Executive Councillor is asked to;

- Approve an additional £35,000 funding from Formal Open Space S106 contributions for this scheme, which is already included in the Capital Plan (SC441), subject to resources being available to fund the total cost of £210,000.
- There are no additional revenue implications.

#### Procurement recommendations -

The Executive Councillor is asked to:

- Approve the carrying out and completion of the revised procurement.

## 1 Summary

### 1.1 The project

The project appraisal for the updating, extension and expansion of the Cambridge Canoe Club building on Sheeps Green (owned by the City Council but let to the Canoe Club) was approved October 2009.

The project remains the same as the previous report, but the procurement exercise identified a shortfall in the existing budget provision and approval is sought for addition funding to secure the external capital grant and deliver the project.

Target Start date	<b>October 2010</b>
Target completion date	<b>April 2011</b>

## **1.2 The Cost**

Total Capital Cost	<b>£ 210,000</b>
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Capital Cost Funded from:

Funding:	Amount:	Details:
Reserves	<b>£ 0</b>	<i>N/a</i>
Repairs & Renewals	<b>£ 0</b>	<i>N/a</i>
Section 106	<b>£ 115,000</b>	<i>Formal Open Space</i>
Other	<b>£ 80,000</b> <b>£ 15,000</b>	<i>British Canoe Union grant</i> <i>Cambridge Canoe club</i>

Revenue Cost –

Year 1	No additional revenue cost
Ongoing	No additional revenue cost

## **1.3 The Procurement**

A fully tendered procurement exercise was undertaken to submit pricing for building works based on architectural drawings and fit-out specifications. These tenders all came back at around (but not in excess of) £210,000 for the project.

Procurement previously approved totalled £160,000, funded £80,000 from formal open space S106 funds and an £80,000 capital grant from the British Canoe Union.

Building contracts have not been awarded until the additional funds required are approved.

## **Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report**

### **1.4 What is the project?**

The project, as per the previous appraisal approved October 2009, is to extend the Cambridge Canoe Clubhouse, improving changing facilities to accommodate the increasing membership and better cater for disabled users.

Replacing and extending the north end of the clubhouse will permit a disabled changing facility, two large changing rooms (male and female), a parent & child changing room, and two toilets. The layout will also free up space to create better equipment storage.

Consent has been granted by Planning and Building Regulations for the works proposed.

A 30 year extension to the lease with the Canoe Club has been agreed.

### **1.5 What are the aims & objectives of the project?**

Main objective is to extend and update the provision within the Canoe Club on Sheeps Green to support the Council's Vision:

‘A city which is diverse and tolerant, values activities which bring people together and where everyone feels they have a stake in the community.’

### **1.6 Summarise the major issues for stakeholders & other departments?**

The main issues for the Canoe Club are that works be done outside of the Canoe season if at all possible.

### **1.7 Summarise key risks associated with the project**

There is the risk that if not approved and delivered the grant of £80,000 from the British Canoe Union will be lost and an opportunity of joint working and outside funding for investment into Cambridge clubs and City Council owned properties will be lost. The building works are proposed to start as soon as possible after contract award in October and ground conditions and river levels may have a significant impact upon the time line for delivery of this project over the winter period.

Footings and ground works need to be constructed and set before the possibilities of floods and the wetter weather disrupts the site.

If further S106 funding is not allocated there is the possibility that funds from this section of S106 contributions, which are well catered for, may have to be returned, due to non-funding of viable projects.

### **1.8 Financial implications**

- a. Appraisal prepared on the following price base: **2010/11**
- b. Submitted designs upto the cost of £210,000

### **1.9 Capital & Revenue costs**

<b>(a) Capital</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Building contractor / works	199,000	S106 & BCU funded
Purchase of vehicles, plant & equipment		
Professional / Consultants fees	11,000	S&P Architects
IT Hardware/Software		
Other capital expenditure		
<b>Total Capital Cost</b>	<b>£210,000</b>	

<b>(b) Revenue</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Existing provision	0	
Future maintenance -		
<b>Total Revenue Cost</b>		

### **1.10 VAT implications**

There are No VAT issues on the capital procurement of this project as the City Council is the main applicant for the British Canoe Union grant.

### **1.11 Other implications**

There are no other implications.

### **1.12 Estimate of staffing resource required to deliver the project**

Staff resources will be from the Recreation team, to monitor the progression of works and onsite H&S checks.

### **1.13 Identify any dependencies upon other work or projects**

This project is dependent upon the dedicated S106 funds being available for the project, the award from the British Canoe Union and funding from Cambridge Canoe Club.

### **1.14 Background Papers**

- Previously approved project appraisal

### **1.15 Inspection of papers**

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Date prepared:	17/08/2010

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To: Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation  
Report by: Debbie Kaye, Head of Arts & Recreation  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 14/10/2010  
Wards affected: All Wards

## **CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE REVIEW**

### **Key decision**

#### **1. Executive summary**

On 25th June 2009, the Council approved a report by the Director of Community Services that highlighted recommendations for improvements to the operation and management of the Corn Exchange. Discussion at two officer/member working parties over the autumn period this year has further informed future direction and approach.

#### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 To approve the approach and detailed actions highlighted in section 3.5 of this report relating to governance, management, staffing, programming, marketing, and facility improvement.

#### **3. Background**

3.1 In June 2009 the then Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation, Councillor Julie Smith, took the following decisions:

- To agree to retain management of the Corn Exchange in-house with operational and efficiency improvements.
- To set up a member/officer working party to consider the detailed recommendations for improvements outlined in appendix 1, section 1.8 of the report.
- To request that the working party draw up an action plan to deliver changes, to be brought back to Community Services Scrutiny Committee for a final Executive Councillor decision.
- To accept the conclusions from the catering review that the daytime café facility is not viable, and to remove the café facility when drawing up the specification for the re tendering of the catering contract.

3.2 The appendix referred to is the report by consultants RGA Ltd, and the recommendations related to governance, management, staffing, programming, marketing, catering and facilities. The RGA report made 36 individual recommendations, some strategic and some relating to operational matters.

3.3 In January 2010, the Council appointed a consultant with extensive experience in the management of cultural venues and activities as the interim Head of Arts and Entertainments. Part of his remit was to review and reflect upon the recommendations of the RGA report and prepare an initial action plan.

3.3 The Council has since restructured its senior management team, and the interim head of service, and the new Head of Arts and Recreation have worked together to propose an approach to deliver short and medium-term service improvement.

3.4 Two working party meetings were arranged<sup>1</sup> for members of Community Services Scrutiny Committee and representatives of other political parties to consider the original recommendations and the views of both the interim and new head of service. The approach now proposed takes into account discussion held at both meetings.

3.5 The recommended approach is outlined below under the original headings suggested by RGA Ltd.

#### 3.5.1 Governance

- In the medium term, the Corn Exchange will continue to be directly managed by the Council
- A Project Management Board comprising the Head of Service, Director of Customer and Community Services and the Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation will be established to oversee service improvements, set targets and monitor performance
- A Performance Advisory Panel comprising elected members, officers and possibly external expertise will be established to enable oversight of cultural activity in relation to the Corn Exchange, and other arts venues grant aided by the council
- Strategic relationships with organisations such as Arts Council East, and important local providers will be strengthened and others explored
- Ongoing work on the Council's arts strategy will consider the role and direction of future cultural activity at the Corn Exchange

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<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010

### 3.5.2 Management

- The Corn Exchange and Guildhall Hall's operations will be run as a stand-alone business unit within the arts and recreation service. The new in-house management structure will be identified as part of a restructure of the arts and recreation service.
- The restructure proposals will be brought forward under the Council's management of change policy in November 2010. It is anticipated that full implementation will be completed by July 2011.
- A clear and strategic three-year business plan with SMART income targets will be produced, overseen by the project management board
- Clearer arrangements for financial management will be put in place. Cost centre management will be reviewed and a profit and loss account developed that directly links to the Council's accountancy system.

### 3.5.3 Staffing

- The new structure will focus on delivering improvements throughout the Corn Exchange and Guildhall Halls business; also strengthening line management arrangements and creating service teams across the arts and recreation section.
- The restructure will provide for specialism where this is needed, consider combined functions where this is beneficial to the business, and highlight opportunities for better investment in people
- The restructure process will consider opportunities for efficiencies, as well as service improvements.

### 3.5.4 Programming and marketing.

- A vision for programming policy will be developed
- This will be informed by research into audience development and improved strategic relationships with other providers and partners.
- The new policy will focus on improving the business, retaining quality and diversity, and a refreshed approach to marketing and branding.
- The project management board, in conjunction with the programme advisory panel, will oversee programming policy.

### 3.5.5 Catering

Recommendations in the June 2009 scrutiny report to withdraw daytime catering arrangements have already been fully implemented and other major improvements to the bar area made.

### 3.5.6 Facilities

- A comprehensive asset management and improvement plan will be prepared for both the Corn Exchange and the Guildhall Halls.
- The business plan will consider how investment in routine and major capital improvements (for example, to air quality, sound and lighting

systems, also an energy audit) can be delivered in the short, medium and longer term

- The Council will consider how strategic relationships and/or partnerships can potentially contribute to facility improvements

### 3.5.7 Timescales

- The review of the Corn Exchange will be implemented in a two phases over 2.5 years.
- Phase 1 will deliver organisational and financial restructure and will be completed by the summer of 2011.
- Phase 2 will focus on improved service delivery and performance and will be completed by March 2013

## 4. Implications

### 4.1 Financial

It is expected that the restructure will deliver savings. However, it is not possible to quantify an exact amount at this stage

### 4.2 Staffing

The restructure will follow the council's management of change policy. Staff will be briefed on the approach and the policy in early October. Early engagement with both Unison and GMB unions has taken place.

### 4.3 Equal Opportunities

The final restructure proposals will be informed by an equality impact assessment

### 4.4 Environmental

An energy audit is identified as a priority within the three-year business plan

### 4.5 Community Safety

There are no community safety implications

## 5. Background papers

The following background papers were used in preparing this report:

- Review of the Cambridge Corn Exchange (June 2009): Richard Gerald Associates Ltd (RGA)  
[http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/agenda/2009/0625cs/18\\_1.pdf](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/agenda/2009/0625cs/18_1.pdf)
- Corn Exchange Review Report (June 2009): Liz Bisset, Director of Community Services  
<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/agenda/2009/0625cs/18.pdf>
- Minutes of Community Services Scrutiny Committee (June 2009)  
<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/minutes/2009/0625CS.pdf>
- Feedback from working group meetings

## 6. Appendices

None

## 7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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