

**WEST CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE**9 March 2017  
7.00 - 10.20 pm**Present****Area Committee Members:** Councillors Cantrill (Chair), Bick, Gillespie, Holland and Ratcliffe**Area Committee Members:** City and County Councillors Hipkin and Nethsinga

Councillor Holland left after the vote on item 17/10/WCAC

**Officers:**

Head of Property Services: Dave Prinsep

Community Funding and Development Manager: Jackie Hanson

Principal Planner: John Evans

Urban Growth Project Manager: Tim Wetherfield

Committee Manager: James Goddard

Committee Manager: Emily Watson

**Other Officers in Attendance:**

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite

Chair Cambridge BID: Ian Sandison

County Council's Transport Officer: David Allett

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL****17/1/WAC Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Cearns, Gehring and Holt.

**17/2/WAC Declarations of Interest**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Councillor Cantrill	All	Personal: Candidate in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayoral election

**17/3/WAC Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 December 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments:

Councillor Holland said that funding was required for the painting of red pillar boxes in the West/Central area.

**16/54/WAC Open Forum**

Councillor Nethsingha said she and other councillors were aware of residents' concerns. ~~It had been assumed the containers would be sited at the back of the site, but they were put in the front.~~ **They were not aware of the proposal to locate the containers at the front of the site.**

**17/4/WAC Matters and Actions Arising from the Minutes**

ACTION	LEAD OFFICER/MEMBER	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS
<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Chair to invite representatives to the next WCAC to discuss streetscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (City Council) Leader, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy &amp; Transport, Director of Planning and Economic Development.</li> <li>• County Council representatives.</li> <li>• Officers: Green space, heritage.</li> <li>• Chair of Cambridge Past, Present &amp; Future.</li> <li>• Cambridge BID.</li> </ul>	<p>Councillor Cantrill</p> <p>Head of Property Services (as WCAC Lead Officer)</p>	<p>Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17</p>	<p>The intention was to invite contacts to 29/09/16, but item deferred to a future WCAC due to number of items on the agenda.</p> <p>Issues now addressed.</p>

<p><u>Open Forum</u></p> <p>Dave Prinsep to liaise with Jean Glasberg regarding concerns about Canoe Club containers.</p>	<p>Dave Prinsep</p>	<p>Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17</p>	<p>Dave Prinsep has checked the situation about the Canoe Club. Councillor Cantrill is aware of the situation and discussions have been taking place over the last 6 weeks or so involving Ian Ross, Suzanne McBride, Stephen Kelly and planning officers. Jean Glasberg was being kept informed of what was happening.</p> <p><u>Update at Meeting</u></p> <p>Dave Prinsep confirmed that Alistair Wilson had been dealing with the Canoe Club containers. A new planning application had had to be submitted in order to move the containers. The proposed</p>
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			<p>location would be behind the changing rooms and so more discreet. If the application was refused it is unclear what the next steps would be.</p> <p><b>Action Point: If the application is refused Cllr Cantrill will support the revocation of the original authorisation which gave permission for the location of the containers.</b></p>
<p><u>Open Forum</u></p> <p>Councillor Bick to feedback at next WAC regarding powers the City Council may exercise to bring the disused cinema on Hobson Street back into use.</p>	Councillor Bick	Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17	<p>Councillor Bick has followed up issues with Officers.</p> <p><u>Update at Meeting</u></p> <p>Cllr Bick gave feedback on the position of Hobson Street cinema. There are no current planning applications or pre applications. It is categorised</p>

			<p>as a leisure facility and the Council does not have any power to bring it back into use. A compulsory purchase order would be very complex. The current owners took ownership 2 years ago and have plans to bring it back into use. A clearer indication of their intention will be available in 6-8 weeks; they intend to engage and consult with the community on their plans.</p>
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<p><u>Open Forum</u></p> <p>Councillor Holt to liaise with Penny Heath regarding policies (or lack of) regarding safe capacity for city streets, specifically in the Garret Hostel Lane area.</p>	<p>Cllrs Holt</p>	<p>Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17</p>	<p><u>Update at Meeting</u></p> <p>In Cllr Holt's absence Penny Heath reported that there was no safe capacity limit for public streets. She invited a co-ordinated effort from the tourism sector, Highways Agency, cycling and pedestrian groups to tackle the issue.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b>  <b>Cllr Cantrill on behalf of WAC will liaise with strategic partners to investigate ways of address residents' concerns of street capacity limits.</b></p>
<p><u>Open Forum</u></p> <p>Councillor Gillespie to liaise with Ambulance Service to ensure Emergency Services have a comprehensive list of defibrillators</p>	<p>Cllr Gillespie</p>	<p>Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17</p>	<p><u>Update from Meeting</u></p> <p>Councillor Gillespie to arrange a meeting with</p>

<p>stored in community buildings across the city.</p>			<p>officers and facility staff in the Guildhall to make the defibrillator more accessible. There was no real consensus about how to make defibrillators more accessible in the wider city centre area. A cross party / area committee councilor group would follow this up.</p>
<p><u>Open Forum</u></p> <p>Councillor Bick to feedback at next WAC regarding implications for the city from Airbnb.</p>	<p>Councillor Bick</p>	<p>Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17</p>	<p>Councillor Bick has followed up issues with Officers.</p> <p><u>Update from Meeting</u></p> <p>Cllr Bick gave feedback on the policy framework for Airbnb. Key issues: Airbnb reduced the housing availability for those working and wanting to live in the city</p>

		<p>and increases neighbourhood disturbance due to commuting.</p> <p>The Council did not currently have a policy approach but it would be brought to DPSSC committee in March for discussion.</p> <p>Mr Footit asked for enforcement action against a property in Richmond Road which has been let through Airbnb for last 16 months and was causing constant nuisance issues for residents. He also expressed concern over supervision and regulation because the owners of the property did not live on site.</p> <p><b>Action Point:</b> <b>Ward</b> <b>Councillors to ask officers to</b></p>
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			<b>investigate nuisance issue reported by residents of Richmond Road regarding property used by Airbnb.</b>
<p><u>Police and Safer Neighbourhoods</u></p> <p>A member of the public asked the Police to publish monitoring data (eg average speed) as collected pre-speed watch introduction. Also to publicise where historic data is available.</p>	Lynda Kilkelly / Tom Kingsley	Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17	<p>Police response to speed camera traffic monitoring query:</p> <p>This is work that the constabulary has not done for a number of years now, which is why the data on the force website stops.</p> <p>There is no way for us to get this information/work done any more.</p>
<p><u>Police and Safer Neighbourhoods</u></p> <p>Colin Rosenstiel asked the Police to undertake education/enforcement work where drivers did not leave enough space for cyclists on the road.</p>	Lynda Kilkelly / Tom Kingsley	Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17	<p>Council Officers have liaised with the police to request this.</p> <p><u>14/03/17 update</u> Safer Communities Officers referred to "Close pass"</p>

			drivers who endanger cyclists targeted by police" article in Cambridge News.
<u>Environmental Report</u>  Wendy Young to liaise with Open Spaces Team to request regular clearing of cigarette bins on rubbish bins.	Wendy Young	Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17	Issue passed to Operations Team to undertake as part of regular activity.
<u>Environmental Report</u>  Wendy Young to liaise with Alistair Wilson to request land owner(s) maintain the railings between Queen's Road and the Garret Hostel Lane bridge.	Wendy Young	Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17	Alistair Wilson / Anthony French following up. The railings on the east side on the bridge approach may be the County Council's responsibility? The railings on the west side of the bridge to Queen's Road are the Colleges' on either side?
<u>Environmental Report</u>  Wendy Young to liaise with Alistair Wilson to look into the issue of the white picket fence outside Millworks restaurant by the Mill Pond. The fence may be the property of the	Wendy Young	Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17	Alistair Wilson / Anthony French following up. The City Council has repaired some of the fence closest to the Green. The

landowner, but whoever owns it please could they be asked to repair it?			sections in poor repair are the responsibility of the restaurant?
<u>Environmental Report</u>  Wendy Young to return with comments on bins at the next committee.	Wendy Young	Feedback at next WCAC 09/03/17	No comment.

## 17/5/WAC Open Forum

### Open Forum

Members of the public asked a number of questions, as set out below.

1. **Mary Wheater raised the following issues:**
  - i. **Expressed concern over the large sections of streets that had no lighting.**
  - ii. **The paving on Hoadly Road and Windsor Road was in very bad condition which exacerbated the lack of light safety issue as people would not be able to see uneven paving etc.**

Councillor Holland said that Balfour Beatty had reduced street lighting to cover just road endings and junctions because that was all they were required to do. Extensive consultation was undertaken before the decision to move the lighting went ahead so there is nothing that the Council can do to overturn the decision. Other attempts at moving streetlights in areas such as Windsor Road and Hoadly Road had been generally unsuccessful. The only street light that had been successfully moved was in Nursery Walk. Councillor Holland affirmed that the Council could repair paving so the public should report damaged sections.

2. **A member of the public queried the County Council's street lighting policy, specifically in respect to levels of dimming.**

Councillors Hipkin and Nestingha commented on levels of illumination across the city. At present the lights were on 100% in the early evening when it was most needed, but dimmed later on. This was not due to be changed at present.

- 3. Penny Heath requested an independent safety appraisal for Burrell's Walk lighting scheme. She expressed concern about the replacement lights saying they were not fit for purpose and asked where funding for replacements could be obtained from.**

Councillor Nesthingha said the safety appraisal would cost approximately £10,000 and it was unlikely the County Council would authorise replacement lighting. Councillor Nesthingha agreed that the danger created by the lack of light was compounded by large roots sticking out of the pavement.

Councillor Cantrill commented that this topic had previously been of interest to the Leader.

Councillor Nesthingha had liased with Andy Bahram the County Council's Highways Officer. The Highways Officer confirmed that he would raise the issue with the Tree Officer to see if the roots could be removed without damaging the tree. Alternatively, the path could be re-profiled to make it safer.

**Action Point: Councillor Nesthingha to seek an update from the County Council's Highways Officer and Tree Officer regarding pavements in Burrell's Walk.**

- 4. A member of the public raised a concern about the new waste collection service failing to collect waste from properties with a communal bin area, eg blocks of flats.**

Councillor Cantrill was aware this was an issue across the city; he also confirmed that at present the online tool to tell the council that bins had been missed did not work for residents who lived in flats. The Head of Service had reassured Councillor Cantrill that this tool would be available in future. In the interim he had advised that residents who lived in flats could report missed bins to their ward councillor who would report it to officers and ensure collections were made.

- 5. Jean Glasberg raised the following points on street scene:**
- i. Commented on the appearance of the Silver Street bridge area of and the difference in opinion between various parties on where bins could be located to make the public realm attractive.**
  - ii. Requested a full review of the street scene and public realm in the city centre.**

Councillor Cantrill suggested Cambridge's street scene within the historic core could be discussed at the next WAC meeting in July 2017. The Silver Street bridge situation could be addressed by other parties before July.

**Action Point: Review of street scene in historic city centre to be agenda item at July meeting.**

**6. Councillor Nethsingha raised a concern that the temporary summer bins were still on Lammas Land.**

**Action Point: Councillor Nethsingha to ask Wendy Young if the Lammas Land bins are temporary; and if so, when would they be removed? Or, if they are permanent, will they be fixed properly into the ground?**

### **17/6/WAC Oral Report - PCC Jason Ablewhite**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The verbal report outlined:

- i. The 4 statutory functions of a Police and Crime Commissioner:
  - Hiring (and supporting) the Chief Constable.
  - Tax precepts.
  - Setting the Police and Crime Plan.
  - Firing the Chief Constable (if required).
- ii. The challenges and constraints for the Police:
  - Domestic violence.
  - Child abuse.
  - Drug related crime.
  - 75% of calls to the Police were non-crime related eg people in mental crisis.
  - Cyber crime.
  - One off incidents eg responding to emergencies such as Storm Doris.
- iii. Four key themes of the Police and Crime Plan:
  - Victims
  - Offenders
  - Communities
  - Transformation and working with strategic partners.

The Police and Crime Commissioner said the following in response to Members' and public questions:

- i. Restorative justice was crucial to prevent prison becoming a breeding ground for crime. Although a prison sentence is the correct method of punishment for some crimes, for many (often young people committing their first minor offence) external intervention was more effective at reducing reoffending.
- ii. Police were spending an increasing amount of time in hospitals with members of the public who threatened to harm themselves or others. Although this sounded more like a role for a social worker, ensuring people receive the correct help before the Police leave them was more effective than leaving them and discovering that they committed a crime or hurt themselves after the event.
- iii. The Police monitor motorists' speed when possible. Due to pressures of policing, greater priority is given to threat, risk and harm so it was not possible to have as many mobile speed guns/cameras as they would like. Police Community Support Officers run speed watch schemes in schools to try to educate and raise awareness of the dangers of speeding. New technology enabled the Police to create educational apps which were based on local streets so that students were able to relate to the situation they were watching.
- iv. Ensuring that Police Officers in general were aware of the community based restorative justice scheme should be part of their training. Unfortunately for older members of the police it has been a challenge to shift the culture of thinking to one where community initiatives should play a larger role. This was a key priority for the PCC going forward; issues could be raised with him directly.
- v. Officers changed roles and areas they worked in (West/Central etc) largely due to promotions. The average length of a career in the police was 30 years. If Officers wanted to rise through the ranks they had to change role every 2 years to broaden their experience. The consequence of this could be that communities could not build a relationship with their local officer.

### **17/7/WAC Cambridge BID: Where we are and What Next**

The Committee received a report from the Chair of Cambridge BID (as set out in the agenda pack).

The Chair of Cambridge BID said the following in response to Members' and public questions:

- i. Cambridge BID has made its members aware of the current consultation on A-boards. Their role is not to take sides but to facilitate a responsible consultation where all relevant parties were made aware of the issues and can make a valid contribution.
- ii. The Cambridge Gift Card had not yet been launched but it would take the form of a debit card. All businesses that accept debit cards will be able to accept the Gift Card. Some market traders do take cards and some this is increasing. A cash alternative would not be available.
- iii. Cambridge BID comprised of 16 board members; 2 councillors and 14 from businesses. The board met every 2 months. Councillors were there to represent the views of the public.
- iv. The BID had no statutory powers regarding fly posting but does undertake additional street cleaning of 50 streets (in addition to City Council responsibilities) and their ambassadors would report on punt touts, ASB, begging and environmental matters such as pot holes and damaged pavements.

### **17/8/WAC West Cambridge Development Site - University of Cambridge**

The Committee received a presentation from the Principal Planner (City Council) and Transport Officer (County Council) regarding the West Cambridge Development Site (16/1134/OUT).

The presentation outlined key issues following the consultation period and provided a general update on the proposals and ways to engage.

- i. **Original application submission** was in June 2016.
- ii. **Documents considered** – included 5 parameter plans, Design and Access Statement, Design Guide, Environment Statement and various supporting technical studies.
- iii. **Key officer concerns** – were set out to the developer team following the consultation period. The key Issues are:
- iv. **Transport** - the transport assessment as submitted was not a complete assessment. Principles of phased approach explained and the latest update on modelling work which is being carried out.
- v. **Landscape and visual impact** – potential visual impact of the proposals, particularly from key views from the south and west. Indicative revised images were introduced showing reduced height in key areas.

- vi. **Trees** – full consideration and survey of existing trees and development buffers has been necessary. The relationship of this work with the Design Guide and consideration of reserved matters was explained.
- vii. **Drainage** – surface water drainage strategy revisions.
- viii. **Environmental Health Issues** – in particular noise, air quality and potential impact from artificial lighting.
- ix. **Sustainability** – wider strategic issues with grid capacity and revised hierarchical approach to energy on the site.
- x. **Amenities delivery** – Shared facilities hub, phasing and strategies to improve sense of place on the campus.

The Principal Planner and Transport Officer said the following in response to Members' and public questions:

- i. The continued development of sites around Madingley Road meant that pressure on transport, cycle and pedestrian access would grow. Measures to mitigate the West Cambridge development were being discussed with the university.
- ii. Assessing the transport impact was complex due to uncertainties with the timing of other developments in the wider area and potential transport mitigation measures that may accompany those. The University were taking an 'adoptive phased approach'. This was a pragmatic approach to assess the transport impact of the proposal through a number of key phases. This involved assessing smaller phases of the overall scheme within agreed parameters and an overall Transport Cap for mitigation measures.
- iii. A Cycle Strategy was under review in order to create a new cycle route to alleviate the pressure from Garrett Hostel Bridge. This would also consider longer term connectivity between West Cambridge and North West Cambridge.
- iv. The proposed new masterplan was an outline planning application. Details about the design and style of the buildings would follow in reserved matters applications in the future. The proposed new building for Civil Engineering (16/1811/FUL) was submitted and determined in advance of the outline because of funding deadlines. This scheme was assessed on its own merits based on the current situation.
- v. A further briefings/forum could be set up in future to update residents/Members. Details could also be brought back to WCAC.

**17/9/WAC 2016/17 S106 Priority-Setting Round WAC**

The Committee received a report from the Urban Growth Project Manager.

The report outlined 4 S106 funded project proposals, their context and set them against the specific selection criteria.

The Committee and public made the following comments in response to the report:

- i. Councillor Hipkin thanked the Urban Growth Project Manager and John Parrott, the Project Officer, for their help during the S106 proposal process. He asked for his comments to be recorded in the minutes.
- ii. A member of the public asked the Committee to consider future S106 proposals which targeted teenagers. Youth leaders would like to be consulted by the council through the Youth Forum; previous examples of this had been successful, e.g. securing funding for the skate park.
- iii. A member of the public referred to Shelly Row play area improvement project and asked whether grass damaged during the refurbishment works would be made good.
- iv. Councillor Cantrill suggested postponing a decision on the Jesus Green ditch improvement proposal until the Urban Growth Project Manager could ascertain whether sufficient local S106 funding was available.

**Action Point: The Urban Growth Project Manager to find out whether grass damaged during the Shelly Row play area refurbishment works would be made good as part of the S106-funded project (or advise a suitable alternative officer).**

Members **unanimously resolved** to prioritise the following local project proposals for the use of devolved S106 contributions from the Area, subject to business case approvals (as appropriate):

- i. The construction of a footway, landscaping & play safety surface refurbishment within the play area at Histon Road Rec Ground.
- ii. The creation of a sustainable open space within St Clement's churchyard, Bridge Street.

**17/10/WAC WAC Building Stronger Communities – Community Centres Strategy**

The Committee received a report from the Community Funding & Development Manager.

The report formed part of a strategic review of community provision; it provided an overview of the recommendations in the draft strategy and the consultation plan.

The Community Funding & Development Manager said the following in response to Members' questions:

- i. The mapping process focused on dedicated community venues in the most deprived areas of the city.
- ii. 107 facilities had been mapped. The map excluded buildings which had multiple functions ie a church which hosted evening community groups; and facilities not owned by the City Council. Officers were aware of facilities that fell into these categories.
- iii. Promoting city wide facility accessibility alongside the Community Development Strategy was a key future priority.
- iv. At present, there has not been much research into why one centre was more successful than another because the variables were very difficult to quantify.

The Committee noted the report.

### **17/11/WAC WAC Area Committee Grants 2017-18**

The Committee received a report from the Community Funding & Development Manager.

The report detailed the applications received for 2017-18 funding for projects in the West Central Area. The report made recommendations for awards and provided information on the eligibility and funding criteria.

2.1 Members **resolved (by 6 votes to 0 - unanimously)** to agree the proposed awards summarised in the table below:

Ref	Organisation	Purpose	Award £
WC1	Christ's Piece Residents' Association	Talk for local people	290
WC2	Friends of Histon Road Cemetery	Information and activities	400
WC3	Friends of Histon Road Recreation Ground	Summer event	1,160
WC4	Friends of Midsummer Common	Community orchard	370
WC5	Oblique Arts	Older people's art workshops	1,560
WC6	Oxford Road Residents Association	Summer fete	150

<b>Budget available</b>	<b>£ 8,520</b>
<b>Total awards</b>	<b>£ 3,930</b>
<b>Budget remaining</b>	<b>£ 4,590</b>

## 17/12/WAC Environmental Reports - WAC

The Committee received a briefing note and report from the Operations Manager – Community Engagement and Enforcement.

The report outlined the work carried out on the priorities previously set. In light of the evidence found over the last three months it was recommended that the WCAC priorities stayed the same to allow further work to be undertaken for the upcoming period.

The Committee discussed the following issues:

- i. The very large number of needles mentioned in the report. In a previous meeting the needle figures were incorrect so there was some discussion regarding whether the same mistake had happened again. Councillor Bick confirmed that these figures were accurate.
- ii. The need for a better way to report incidents involving needles. A police incident report to investigate the situation was required, not just a clean up by City Officers.
- iii. Decided to refer additional questions to the next meeting when the Operations Manager – Community Engagement and Enforcement, would be present to answer them. WCAC to reflect if they would prefer 2 Environmental reports per year, or 4 (quarterly) with twice yearly accompanying verbal report from the Operations Manager – Community Engagement and Enforcement.

Members **resolved (unanimously by 6 votes to 0)** to endorse the suggestions for priorities outlined below:

### Continuing priorities<sup>1</sup>

<b>Number</b>	<b>Priority details</b>
1	Enforcement and City Ranger patrols in the City Centre to address issues of illegally deposited trade waste and littering. Justification: Littering and illegal deposited waste if left un-

<sup>1</sup> Amendments to continuing priorities are shown in italics

	investigated can cause ongoing issues and encourage antisocial behaviour. This priority has been included as a continuation to balance the high standard of trade waste management and litter patrols already existing in the West/Central area and to continue to build upon this work further.
2	Dog warden patrols to target irresponsible dog owners on Midsummer Common Justification: In November there were three reports of intimidating or uncontrolled dogs on Midsummer Common. Dog warden patrols are planned to focus on this area at key times and to gather intelligence / speak to dog owners about the issues in the area.

### **17/13/WAC West Central Area Committee Dates 2017/18**

The following dates were agreed:

- 18 July 2017
- 28 September 2017
- 6 December 2017
- 8 March 2018

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm

**CHAIR**