

Cambridge City Council
Environment and Community Scrutiny
Committee

Date: Thursday, 5 October 2023

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ [access the building via Peashill entrance]

Contact: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes (Pages 5 - 20)
- 4 Petition - On Behalf of the River Cam to Ask the Council to Recognise the Rights of the Cam

A petition has been received containing over 50 valid signatures stating the following:

Statement:

We the undersigned petition the council help to protect the river by declaring that the river has rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Rivers as adapted for the declaration of the rights of the Cam. These include:

- the right to flow and be free from over-abstraction;
- the right to perform essential functions of flooding, moving sediment, recharging groundwater and sustaining biodiversity;
- the right to be free from pollution;
- the right to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers;
- the right to native biodiversity;
- the right to restoration;
- the right to maintain connections with other streams and rivers.

Justification:

Our river is dying from pollution, over-abstraction and mass building which exacerbates both. The Cam was the first river in the UK to have a public declaration of its rights, in a midsummer ceremony in 2021 at Jesus Green, which is repeated each year. Hundreds of Cambridge citizens have pledged to become guardians of the river.

Cambridge is in the driest part of the UK, which has already suffered an average temperature rise of 3 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels, way above the global average of about 1.2 degrees. Climate change puts a large additional pressure on the river system causing increased drought in the summer months and more intense rainfall in the winter with consequent dangers of flooding.

No aspect of nature is more important than the water in our river systems. Water is essential to life. Most human settlements form around sources of fresh water. The Cam is central to the history, life and survival of our City.

Recognising the rights of nature, has never been more urgent as we attempt to limit its destruction through environmental degradation and climate and biodiversity catastrophes. The nature rights movement can assist people in moving beyond the exploitation of nature to living in harmony with it.

Recognising the rights of the Cam would place an obligation on the Council to consider the effect on our river and its tributaries of all relevant planning decisions.

.....

The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes.

5 Public Questions

Decisions for the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services

6 Designated Bathing Area on the River Cam (Pages 21 - 46)

7 Local Government Ombudsman Decision – Highfields Tree Belt (Pages 47 - 54)

Decisions for the Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment

8 Air Quality Strategy (Pages 55 - 88)

9	Cambridge City Smoke Control Areas, (SCA's), Enforcement & Fee Policy	(Pages 89 - 116)
10	Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management Plan Annual Report 2022/23	(Pages 117 - 176)
11	Fixed Penalty Notices Review 2023	(Pages 177 - 198)
12a	To Note Record of Urgent Decision Taken by the Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment	
12b	RECAP Partnership Joint Materials Recycling Tender and Contract	(Pages 199 - 206)

Decisions for the Executive Councillor for Communities

13	S106 Funding Round for Community Facilities and Indoor/Outdoor Sports Facilities	(Pages 207 - 224)
----	--	-------------------

Decisions for the Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety

14	Micro-Mobility Management	(Pages 225 - 234)
----	---------------------------	-------------------

Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee Members: Divkovic (Chair), Nestor (Vice-Chair), Glasberg, Hauk, Payne, Pounds, Swift and Wade

Alternates: Flaubert, Griffin, Howard, Levien and Sheil

Executive Councillors: Carling (Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services), Gilderdale (Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety and Deputy Leader (Statutory)), Healy (Executive Councillor for Communities) and Moore (Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment)

Information for the public

The public may record (e.g. film, audio, tweet, blog) meetings which are open to the public.

For full information about committee meetings, committee reports, councillors and the democratic process:

- Website: <http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk>
- Email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
- Phone: 01223 457000

This Meeting will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube page. You can watch proceedings on the livestream or attend the meeting in person.

Those wishing to address the meeting will be able to do so virtually via Microsoft Teams, or by attending to speak in person. You must contact Democratic Services democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk by 12 noon two working days before the meeting.