

**NORTH AREA COMMITTEE**

26 January 2012

7.30 - 10.15 pm

**Present:** Councillors Nimmo-Smith (Chair), Boyce, Bird, Brierley, Kerr, McGovern, Price, Todd-Jones, Tunnacliffe and Znajak

**County Councillors:** Manning, Pellew, Sales and Wilkins

**Officers:** Lynda Kilkelly (Safer Communities Manager - City), Andrew Preston (Environmental Improvements Manager – City), Richard Preston (Head of Parking and Road Safety – County) and Glenn Burgess (Committee Manager - City)

**Other Officers in attendance:** Jonathan James (Head of Customer Services - City), Graham Saint (Strategy Officer - City) and Eve Dziura (Community Development Officer - City)

**Others in attendance:** Jason Wragg (Police Sergeant), Jim Meikle (Community Fire Safety Officer) and Councillor Ian Bates (Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning – County)

<b>FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL</b>
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**12/8/NAC Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from City Councillors O'Reilly and Ward.

**12/9/NAC Welcome and Introduction (including Declarations of Interest)**

The Chair welcomed the public and explained the format of the meeting.

**Declarations of Interest:**

None.

## **12/10/NAC The Fen Road Area - Issues and Solutions**

The Chairman introduced the item.

Councillors and members of the public were asked to discuss and highlight all traffic, highway and parking issues associated with the Fen Road area.

A full list of the issues raised can be found at Appendix A or is available via the following link:

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD727&ID=727&RPID=27747184&sch=doc&cat=13034&path=13020%2c13021%2c13034>

Councillors and members of the public were then asked to discuss possible solutions to the issues that had been highlighted.

A full list of the possible solutions and discussion points can be found at Appendix B or is available via the following link:

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD727&ID=727&RPID=27747184&sch=doc&cat=13034&path=13020%2c13021%2c13034>

It was agreed that a dedicated Steering Group would be set up to look at the issues in more detail and progress possible solutions.

The Steering Group would be made up of the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, relevant Council Officers, Councillors and interested members of the public.

Progress on this topic would then be reported back at future meetings and via the committee's Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/northcambridgecommunityforum>

## **12/11/NAC Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods**

The committee received a presentation from the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, the Safer Communities Section Manager and the Community Fire Safety Officer on crime and policing in the four wards.

The presentation can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=8773>

Members of the public and Councillors asked a number of questions, as set out below:

### **1) Resident: Asked for further information on shift patterns of the PCSO's in the North Area.**

Sergeant Wragg confirmed that PCSO's worked the same shift patterns as the Neighbourhood Policing Officers in the area. PCSO's worked a mixture of day and late shifts but were flexible depending on the demands of the service.

It was emphasised that PCSO's played a valuable role in collecting evidence and acting as a visible deterrent to crime.

### **2) Resident: Asked for further information on the reduction in burglary figures.**

Sergeant Wragg confirmed that, whilst there would normally be a peak in burglaries over the Christmas period, this year it had thankfully not occurred. It was also noted that weather conditions and the presence of very active individual criminals could have a big effect on burglary figures.

### **3) Councillor Znajek: Highlighted continuing parking problems at the Shirley School and suggested that it remain a police priority.**

Sergeant Wragg confirmed that officers would continue to work closely with the school and monitor the situation as part of their everyday work. It was therefore not felt necessary that it continue as a specific police priority.

### **4) Resident: Highlighted that cycling offences in Gilbert Road were on the increase and expressed support for this to be a police priority.**

This comment was noted.

**5) Resident: Highlighted the increase in vandalism, drug use and sexual activity taking place in the public toilets on Church Street.**

Sergeant Wragg confirmed that this area was being monitored and the police were working with partners to address the issue.

**6) Resident: Highlighted speeding vehicles on Fen Road as an ongoing issue.**

Sergeant Wragg confirmed that anti-social driving was probably the biggest issue and noted that the weight and nature of vehicles using Fen Road meant that it was no longer fit for purpose.

**7) Resident: Emphasised the need for clearer signage on cycleways in order to reduce anti-social cycling.**

This comment was noted.

**8) Councillor Todd-Jones: Highlighted the good work being undertaken between the police and the management team at 222 Victoria Road and supported its continuation as a police priority.**

This comment was noted.

**9) Resident: Highlighted drug dealing in Pearl Close as an ongoing issue.**

Sergeant Wragg asked that he be emailed with further information so that the issue could be investigated.

**10) Councillor Bird: Further emphasised the need to continue to monitor issues around the Shirley School to ensure the safety of those attending the school and local residents.**

This comment was noted.

The committee agreed to vote on each of the suggested priorities separately:

- Continue to reduce ASB around 222 Victoria Road **(11 votes to 0)**
- Parking issues at the new Shirley School **(5 votes to 1)**
- Speeding and Anti-Social driving in Fen Road **(11 votes to 0)**
- Anti-social cycling in Gilbert Road **(3 votes to 0)**
- Continue with arson preventative work **(9 votes to 0)**

On a final show of hands the following three Neighbourhood Priorities were agreed by 11 votes to 0:

- Continue to reduce ASB around 222 Victoria Road
- Speeding and Anti-Social driving in Fen Road
- Continue with arson preventative work

At the request of the committee Sergeant Wragg agreed to provide a further update on work around Pearl Close and Church Street for the next meeting on 22 March 2012.

### **12/12/NAC TO CONFIRM WHAT WAS SAID (MINUTES) AT THE LAST MEETING AND WHAT WE HAVE DONE (ACTION LIST)**

The minutes of the 24 November 2011 meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### Update on Action List:

The Chair confirmed that a response had been sent to Mr Richard Taylor regarding his question on Restorative Justice.

### **12/13/NAC YOU WANT TO KNOW (OPEN FORUM)**

**1) Resident: Highlighted that parking around Shirley School continued to be a problem with parents now also parking at the GP Surgery.**

This comment was noted.

**2) Resident: Asked when the notice would be erected for grass verges.**

The Environmental Improvements Manager confirmed that the County Council would require a consultation and it was likely that this would take place during February 2012.

## **12/14/NAC Future Work Programme for the Area Committee**

The committee formally approved their Work Programme for 2012/13 as attached at Appendix C.

The meeting ended at 10.15 pm

**CHAIR**

## Appendix A: Issues raised at the meeting

- Speeding
- Safety on the level crossing
- Anti-Social driving
- Littering from vehicles
- Driving on pavements
- Ineffective speed control measures
- Illegal parking and safety issues
- Damage to properties from HGV vibrations
- Damage to highway, drains and pavements
- Parking blocking resident's driveways
- Nuisance noise from HGV's
- Cycle safety (behaviour of vehicles towards cyclists)
- Increase in skip vehicles using road
- Trade recycling (where's it going?)
- Speed bump profile
- Parking blocking pavements
- Planning approvals (LA boundary issue)
- Pedestrian safety (cyclists riding on pavement)
- Frequency of trains on crossing (causing backlog of traffic - which will only get worse with new station)
- Safer pedestrian crossings on Fen Road
- Intimidation of pedestrians/cyclists by vehicle drivers
- Vans drivers stopping and blocking road
- Parking issues on level crossing
- Residents refused taxi's back to Fen Road
- Quantity of traffic (commercial) – in the 2006 survey:
  - 32% of morning vehicle traffic was commercial (1 every 32 seconds!)
  - 28% of afternoon vehicle traffic was commercial
  - 16% of evening vehicle traffic was commercial
- Standard of highway drainage
- Lack of footway provision
- Inadequate maintenance of highway
- Enforcement issues regarding planning applications
- Desperate need for a secondary access

## Appendix B: Possible solutions and discussion points

Issue/Concern	Possible Solutions/Discussion points
<p><b>Need for a secondary access road</b></p> <p>During the discussions this issue was raised by 7 tables</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restrictions needed on weight and width</li> <li>- Need to be split/controlled at level crossing</li> <li>- Appropriate Traffic Management Plan (inc bollards)</li> <li>- Recognition that with the new station more cars will use Fen Road to avoid Milton Road.</li> <li>- Access road needs to be looked at NOW as part of any new station proposals</li> <li>- The government are currently consulting on A14 improvements - could this form part of solution?</li> <li>- A new station without a new access road will be terrible</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cycle and pedestrian access/safety (particularly at crossing)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level crossing issues need to be addressed</li> <li>- Carriageway needs to be designed better for cyclists and pedestrians</li> <li>- Could the £2m that that the County Council currently has allocated for improvements in North Area be used?</li> <li>- Two way cycling south of Fen Road is an issue</li> <li>- Cycle lanes need to be widen to two lanes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Controlling ASB on Fen Rd</b></p> <p><b>Road Layout/traffic calming</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pinch point on both sides of Fen Road</li> <li>- Rising bollards</li> <li>- Appropriate traffic calming measures</li> <li>- Improved policing of the area</li> <li>- Improved road layout</li> <li>- Strong metal Bollards on edge of pavements (and widen pavements if necessary)</li> <li>- Make Fen Road 'part' one way</li> <li>- Block part of Fen Road (this side of railway line)</li> <li>- Widen pavements and introduce planting</li> <li>- Need for the bridge over railway line to be accessible</li> <li>- Speed camera on straight</li> <li>- Speed survey</li> </ul>



<b>Approval of retrospective Planning applications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Problems made worse by continued growth in the area</li><li>- Increased growth especially at the bottom end of Fen Road</li></ul>
<b>Need to address safety issues asap (not wait for access road)</b>	As above
<b>Need continuing discussion on these issues – through website/Facebook etc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Need for evidence base to support issues raised (i.e info on train times/frequency etc)</li></ul>

## Appendix C: Approved Work Programme

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Community Forum Topic</b>
<b>26 January 2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Safer Neighbourhoods</li><li>- Fen Road – Issues and possible solutions</li></ul>
<b>22 March 2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Transport theme inc. Chesterton Station</li><li>- Update on Street Scene issues</li></ul>
<b>17 May 2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Safer Neighbourhoods</li><li>- Young People (inviting groups and organisations and engaging with young people)</li></ul>
<b>26 July 2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Health and Wellbeing (emphasis on sport and exercise to tie in with the Olympics)</li></ul>
<b>27 September 2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Safer Neighbourhood</li><li>- The Voluntary Sector and Localism</li></ul>