

North Area Committee

Minutes

At Manor Community College

4 March 2010

6:30pm – 9:40pm

Those Present for the Consideration of Applications for Planning Permission

City Councillors: Blair, Boyce, Levy, McGovern, Pitt and Ward

Other Councillors Present: Todd-Jones

Officers: Sarah Dyer (Principal Development Control Manager) and Alison Twyford (Planning Investigation Officer)

Those Present for the Remainder of the Meeting

City Councillors: Blair, Boyce, Levy, McGovern, Nimmo-Smith, Pitt, Todd-Jones and Ward

Officers: Paula Bishop (Children & Young People's Service Manager), Paul Connelly (Locality Manager for Children and Young Peoples' Services in North Cambridge), Steve Kerridge (Police Inspector), Wendy Lansdown (Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer), Andrew Preston (Interim Environmental Projects Manager) and Jason Wragg (Police Sergeant)

County Councillors: Moss-Eccardt and Pellew

10/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

City Councillors: Armstrong, Kerr, Liddle and Upstone

County Councillors: Wijssenbeek and Wilkins

10/09 Declarations of Interest (Planning)

None.

10/10 Applications for Planning Permission

These minutes and the appendix should be read in conjunction with the reports on applications to the committee, where the conditions to the approved applications or reasons for refusal are set out in full and with the Amendment Sheet issued at the meeting. Any amendments to the recommendations are shown.

Full details of the decisions, conditions of permissions and reasons for refusal may be inspected in the Environment and Planning Department, including those that the committee delegated to the Head of Development Control to draw up.

Under paragraph 4.2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, the Chair used his discretion to alter the order of the planning applications. However, for ease of the reader, these minutes will follow the order of the agenda.

The Chair asked the Committee's approval to rule that under section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, Officers' reports be considered despite not being made publicly available for five clear working days prior to this meeting.

The reason that these documents cannot be deferred is that Area Committees occur on an eight week cycle and it would be impractical to defer planning applications and recommendations in officers' reports for this period.

Councillor Todd-Jones took no part in planning applications.

3a

Site Address: Land between 34 and 35 Pakenham Close
Application Number: 09/1134/FUL
Proposal: Erection of two semi-detached houses
Applicant: George Lambert
Case Officer: Catherine Linford
Officer Recommendation: APPROVE subject to conditions
Public Speaker: None
Decision: None
This item was withdrawn from the Agenda.

3b

Site Address: 58 De Freville Avenue
Application Number: 09/0853/FUL
Proposal: Amendments to ground floor north elevation including changes to roof, wall and windows
Applicant: Simon Young
Case Officer: Tony Collins
Officer Recommendation: APPROVE subject to the conditions
Public Speaker: None
Decision: APPROVED (unanimously) as per Officers report subject to additional conditions as follows:
The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.
Reason: In accordance with the requirements of section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
And

If the windows in the centre of the flank elevation abutting Aylestone Road are to open, they shall be sash windows, and not outward opening casement windows or outward tilting windows.

Reason: To protect the safety of users of the footway. (Cambridge Local Plan 2006 policy 8/2).

3c

Site Address: 09/1116/FUL

Application Number: Land adjacent To 2A Trafalgar Road

Proposal: Erection of one dwelling

Applicant: Dernford Regent Ltd

Case Officer: Amy Lack

Officer Recommendation: APPROVE subject to the conditions

Public Speaker: Justin Bainton (Agent)
Howard Guest (Objector)

Decision: **APPROVED (unanimously)** as per Officers report subject to additional condition as follows:

Additional condition 10

Prior to commencement of development, a full noise survey shall be carried out to assess the impact of noise generated by plant on the adjacent site at the Co-Op, 62 Chesterton Road on the living conditions of future occupants of the proposed development. If necessary the assessment shall make recommendations about mitigation measures that are necessary to control the impact of noise generated by plant to a level that would result in a reasonable level of residential amenity being provided to future occupiers. Both the full details of the noise survey and any associated recommendations for mitigation measures shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. Any agreed mitigation measures shall be fully provided in advance of any occupation of the accommodation hereby approved and retained thereafter to the satisfaction of the local planning authority.

Reason: In the interest of the amenity of future residents of the development. (Cambridge Local Plan policy 4/13)

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Item 3d is deemed confidential. The Area 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 5 & 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

3d General Item - Planning Enforcement Control - Planning Contravention Report

The Committee approved the recommendations as set out in the Planning Investigation Officer's confidential report.

10/11 Declarations Of Interest (Main Agenda)

Councillor	Item	Interest
Blair	10/17	Personal – Executive Councillor involved in developing recommendations
Boyce	10/17	Personal – Director of Kelsey Kerridge
Pitt	10/15	Personal – Governor of Kings hedges Primary School

10/12 Minutes

The minutes of the 7 January 2010 meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

10/13 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

- **10/06 Matters Arising (from 09/47 Open Forum) “Have Councillors received the full speeding statistics from the police as promised at the last meeting? Will these be published?”**

Councillor McGovern has received specific details concerning speeding in Kings Hedges.

- **10/07 Open Forum “Please clarify the situation concerning gritting in the City”.**

Councillor Pitt has not received clarification and will continue to monitor the situation.

Councillors Pitt and Nimmo-Smith met County Councillor McGuire to discuss gritting and the impact of snow. They will liase with Councillor Armstrong concerning this.

- **10/07 Open Forum “There are a number of ways planning conditions on VIE site that have not been enforced - just two are the cycle parking provision and there being no dropped pavements onsite. The council should follow these up ASAP. When will council enforcement officers (or whomever is responsible) ensure these failures are rectified?”**

Councillor Blair has identified funding for dropped pavements. A meeting for interested parties will be held W/C 9 March 2010 to take issues forward concerning Church Street, Chapel Street and VIE site.

- **10/07 Open Forum “Guided Bus: Could anyone tell us what benefits will arise for residents of Cambridge from the Cambridge Guided Bus way given that the most convenient stop for the Grafton Centre at New Square has been closed to residents using local bus services and we are promised reductions in bus frequencies on Citi2 and removal of evening services on Citi4?”**

The Locality Manager for Children and Young Peoples' Services in North Cambridge and Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer responded.

Cambridgeshire County Council sent information out about changes but this notification was at a relatively high level. The County Council felt it was more appropriate to signpost information so that interested parties could seek further details if desired.

“With the Citi2 service, the reduction in service level proposed last November is not happening as planned. There will be a change of route between Addenbrooke’s Hospital and Cherry Hinton Road to serve Wulfstan Way instead of Queen Edith’s Way”.

“For Citi4 the change will be that Monday to Saturday evening and Sunday journeys between Orchard Park and Cambridge city centre will be withdrawn, but there will be a replacement service 4 from Orchard Park only”.

Details from Paul Nelson’s (Public Transport Manager) letter concerning Emmanuel Road Bus Stop were read to attendees. “Cambridgeshire County Council has provided new bus stops for the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway (CGB) as part of a wider bus stop strategy to improve city bus stop facilities”.

“This was discussed at the Cambridge Joint Area Committee and the decision to proceed with the work was taken by the County Council’s Cabinet”.

“Information explaining the changes to stops other bus services would use once the work commenced was displayed on buses that were affected by the change. This information was also available by visiting the Council’s website, and letters were also sent to residents and businesses near the stops”.

“The modifications made to the stop, which now has a higher kerb than other stops, mean that it will be difficult for normal buses to use it”.

“In terms of the alternative stop on Jesus Lane there is a pelican crossing on Maid’s Causeway that enables the public to safely cross the road and access

the Grafton Centre area. Alternatively passengers could get off their bus in the bus station and cross Emmanuel Road at the pelican crossing point”.

Members of the public expressed concern over the impact of the Guided Bus on city stops (ie number of), pedestrian crossings, kerb height (for ease of crossing road and complying with Department for Transport standards) and bus services.

Councillor Moss-Eccardt was reassured by the County Council Cabinet three years ago that kerb height would be suitable for ordinary and guided buses. The scheme was then approved to continue although it was acknowledged that high kerb heights were unsuited to both bus types.

The Emmanuel Road Bus Stop was removed as part of renovation work and not re-instated.

Action Point: Councillor Pitt to seek further details on Emmanuel Road crossing.

In response to his question, Councillor Pitt was advised that the Citi 4 Grafton Centre stop was removed in response to the recession, and not the Guided Bus.

Action Point: Councillor Armstrong to invite Andrew Campbell or another Stagecoach representative to a future North Area Committee meeting.

It was noted the light sequence for the Guided Bus near Cambridge Regional College and Orchard Park bus stops were operating when the Guided Bus was not in service yet. Councillor Blair said this was an issue for the Local Liaison Forum.

The Committee expressed concern over bus services, replacement of redundant stops and general service provision.

Action Point: Councillor Blair to liaise with Mr Bond post Area Committee concerning unnecessary replacement of bus stops.

10/14 Open Forum

Q1) Kay Harris – Expressed concern over the condition of footpaths and roads. The three parties after the cold winter are now looking at the condition of these. Why were the (budget) cuts allowed when our roads were already in such a terrible condition?

A) The Highways Agency report that one hundred and sixty five potholes are created a week, but only one thousand four hundred can be repaired in a month. Therefore it will take time to clear the backlog.

The County Council are calling in contractors to repair holes. 2010/11 funding will be used to address 2009/10 issues.

Residents were encouraged to report potholes, as some that have been repaired have re-opened. Councillors felt that the County Council should raise the priority of potholes (plus associated funding) as the City is in the bottom quartile for the quality of road condition and pedestrian crossings.

The County Council have adopted a new process for reporting and monitoring potholes. A member of the public suggested using 'fix my street' as an alternative system.

Q2) Richard Taylor – Why are out of date planning applications being considered?

A) Planning applications are generally considered within the appropriate timescale, applicants will be advised if their application will not be considered on time. This is an issue for the Planning Department rather than the Area Committee.

Q3) Richard Taylor – Expressed concern over “scrap yard” at Woohead Drive/Milton Road.

Action Point: Councillor Pitt to liaise with Mr Taylor post committee.

Q4) Richard Taylor – Expressed concern over Arbury Road/Riverside cycle lane.

A) This is being considered at the Area Joint Committee.

Q5) Mr Rawlinson – Requested update on Gary Drive issues started in August 2008:

- **Following a meeting with Jaz Lally, his response was the matter was now with the 'EIP' Team.**
- **Why do we have to wait until April for approval?**
- **Please explain the delivery programme.**

A) The project is now underway and has been allocated £6,500. Its start date was delayed due to the amount of Officer time required to process the programme as a whole.

The planting season will affect project timescales. Action should occur in this planting season, but October 2010 is an alternative.

Q6) Lil Speed – Expressed concern over cars parking on verges in Kendal Way.

A) Kendal Way was put forward as an Environmental Improvement Programme project. Officers will liaise with Lil Speed about the location.

It was acknowledged that churned verges were unattractive. Grass verges could be re-instated, or bollards and plants used to prevent parking. Both options would be considered. Tarmacking over damaged verges was less of a priority due to drainage issues.

Enforcement officers are only able to prosecute people they see driving onto verges. Changes have been sought to this bye-law, but the required Ministerial sign-off has not been received to date. City and County Enforcement Teams are now considering enforcement action using criminal damage laws.

Q7) Lil Speed – Expressed concern over policing issues.

A) Two Police Community Support Officers patrol in Mrs Speed's neighbourhood.

A police surgery is expected at the Brownfields Centre, this will be advertised on e-cops.

It was noted that a Police evidence DVD played at the 1 March 2010 Strawberry Fair Licensing meeting had been published on the internet. If people had any questions or concerns, these could be raised with the Divisional Commander at Police Head Quarters. Councillors expressed concern that the DVD had been published on the internet.

10/15 Policing And Safer Neighbourhoods

The Community Safety Strategy Officer introduced the item.

Police Inspector Steve Kerridge and Sergeant Jason Wragg presented the report and outlined actions taken since the Committee on 12 November 2009. The current emerging issues for each ward were also highlighted (see report for full details). They covered crime and anti-social behaviour at Cambridge Regional College, anti-social behaviour at St Luke's School grounds, speeding issues on Kings Hedges Road and Northfield Avenue, Cambridge wide priorities and emerging issues/neighbourhood trends.

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

Q1) Kevin Francis – Why have the number of burglaries and incidents of anti-social behaviour risen over the last three months in the north area of Cambridge?

A) The number of crimes has risen recently due to a seasonal peak, but the year on year figure shows a general improvement.

The violent crime figure includes domestic violence as well as general assaults, each needs to be addressed in different ways.

Q2) Concern over traffic levels and speeding in Fenn Road.

A) Councillor Blair proposed to invite County Officers to future meetings with residents in her Ward to discuss traffic concerns. It was acknowledged that traffic calming measures in Fenn Road were ineffective.

Q3) Councillor McGovern – Expressed concerns over obscured thirty miles per hour signs in Kings Hedges road.

A) Sergeant Wragg will signpost the issue to Speedwatch. This initiative is being piloted in the East area and could be rolled out further with City council approval. Councillor Nimmo-Smith suggested bringing a report to the Community Safety Partnership.

It was agreed to discharge anti social behaviour at CRC on the basis of the establishment of a monthly police / security group.

Prevention and detection of shed burglaries in East Chesterton was not adopted as a priority.

The following priorities were unanimously agreed:

- Continuation of work to tackle anti-social behaviour in St Luke's School and also surrounding area.
- Continuation of enforcement in response to speeding vehicles and the anti-social use of vehicles in Kings Hedges and Northfield Avenue, with additional enforcement work in the key locations.
- Speeding and anti-social driving in Fenn Road to be introduced as a new priority.

10/16 Environmental Improvement Programme

The Interim Environmental Projects Manager reported on the progress with approved schemes:

- Penny Ferry, The Haling Way
- Nun's Way Parking Area Refurbishment
- Campkin Road Verges
- Riverside Cycle Conflict Reduction and EIP Scheme

- Garry Drive Verge Planting
Agreed to amendment that the design would be approved by the Chair and Opposition Spokesperson.

Members considered a number of schemes put forward for consideration, a number of which required approval.

Following discussion, members determined the schemes as follows:

1 Campkin Road Shop Forecourts

Construction is due to begin in the next few weeks subject to project approval. The Interim Environmental Projects Manager is in discussion with the Highways Agency concerning the location of the drop kerb for the pedestrian crossing. The location will be confirmed post safety audit. He will liaise with Councillor Blair concerning this.

The Interim Environmental Projects Manager is in discussion with Street Scene concerning forecourt construction. Bollards and railing have been incorporated into the new design to prevent repetitive damage in future.

Refused (unanimously) to allocate an additional £39,000 for silva cell system.

Agreed to implement the Campkin Road scheme at an estimated cost of £105,354 by 6 – 0 votes.

2 New Schemes

The Committee were asked to consider additional projects.

- Mortlock Avenue - Seating/hard paved area revamp.
- Ramsden Square path resurfacing.
- Woodhead Drive/Milton Road - Enhancement of small open space.
- Kendal Way - Planting on highway verge.
- Downhams Lane - renovation of native hedge and verges adjacent to newly surfaced cycleway.

Agreed to the newly suggested schemes coming forward for consideration.

10/17 Youth Summit 2009 – Outcome and Actions

The Children & Young People's Service Manager introduced the item as per the agenda.

A summit meeting was held with children, young people and Council members on 28th November 2009. The Summit was organised to gather information on neighbourhood issues and on ideas for improving leisure opportunities for

young people across the city. £5000 has been allocated to each Area Committee from the Community Development budget to enable Area Committee members to respond to suggestions arising from the event. Issues highlighted by children and young people, during the Summit, included concerns about being “moved on” by the police; tackling anti social behaviour; improvements to parks and open spaces and widening opportunities to leisure activities.

The Area Committee approved by 7 – 0 votes:

- 1) A request to the police to organise, with the City and County Councils, a meeting with young people to discuss their concerns about community safety.
- 2) The allocation of £5,000 to be spent on improving access to leisure opportunities for children and young people from the North area, subject to further discussions with children and young people on a fair and equitable method of distributing the funding and opportunities. The funding, subject to agreement of a carry forward, to be spent by the end of the Easter school holiday, 2010.
 - £3000 to be spent on multi activity days in the Easter holidays. These days will be promoted via schools to all children in the north area.
 - £2000 to be spent on a pilot project that will involve the roll out of the Cambridge Card to all children in years 7 & 8.
- 3) To discuss with relevant officers how to provide regular information on planned improvements to facilities on recreation grounds, play areas etc. using methods of communication preferred by children and young people.
- 4) To consider, with relevant officers, improvements to the marketing of social, sports, arts and entertainment activities organised by the City Council to ensure that all children and young people have access to information about and opportunities to participate in good quality leisure provision.
- 5) (New recommendation) To report progress at a future Area Committee.

Councillors Blair and Boyce took no part in the vote.

Cards will be distributed to year seven and eight pupils in state schools, and possibly year six as well depending on take up.

10/18 Dates of Future Meetings

The Area Committee agreed meeting dates for the next municipal year as listed below:

- 20 May 2010. Post Meeting Note: This moved to 3 June 2010.
- 15 July 2010.
- 30 September 2010.
- 25 November 2010.

- 27 January 2011.
- 24 March 2011.
- 19 May 2011.

The meeting finished at 9:40pm.

Chair