

East Area Committee 23 October 2003

7.30 – 10.05

City Councillors representing Abbey, Coleridge, Romsey and Petersfield wards

Minutes & Actions

Present: Councillors: **Abbey** (John Durrant, Caroline Hart, Richard Smith), **Coleridge** (Ruth Bagnall, Jeremy Benstead, Berni Callaghan), **Romsey** (Iain Coleman, Sarah Ellis-Miller, Catherine Smart), **Petersfield** (Kevin Blencowe, Ben Bradnack, Patricia Wright)

Also Present: County Councillor: Martin Ballard (Coleridge), Joe Gluza (Romsey)

	Additional information for public: City Council officers can also be emailed firstname.lastname@cambridge.gov.uk The Committee Manager for Area Committee East is john.blunt@cambridge.gov.uk Members of the City Council have individual email addresses which are listed on the City Council website: www.cambridge.gov.uk/councillors/members.htm Members of the County Council can be emailed: Firstname.lastname@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Action by
03/01	APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR Councillor Kevin Blencowe was elected Vice Chair	
03/02	APOLOGIES	
	Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Colin Shaw (Abbey), Bachan Bhalla (Petersfield)	
03/03	OPEN FORUM	
	Anti-social behaviour, drink, drugs and vandalism in the Mill Road area. The issues raised by members of the public present were principally related to the increasing use of the area by those with drink and drug related problems and the consequent occurrence of anti social behaviour which disrupted its residential, social and commercial life.	

	<p>Specific problems identified were:</p> <p>The nuisance caused in Mill Road Cemetery by its use as a gathering place at all hours and the resulting noise, drug-related activity and danger from discarded needles.</p> <p>The Council's need to address the problems of abusive behaviour as a result of drinking in Mill Road.</p> <p>The impact on the quality of life of residents, opposition to a suggestion to provide a portaloo on Petersfield Park.</p> <p>The danger of physical attack and increasing vandalism towards property and vehicles.</p> <p>The need to identify solutions to the problems of the homeless and enable the residents to enjoy their neighbourhood without fear.</p> <p>Support for a drinking ban in Cambridge and a demand for Council action to declare a designated area.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the absence of psychiatric and rehabilitative care available to those affected by addictive behaviour.</p> <p>The committee responded to these comments and questions and expressed its support for action by the Council to address the situation. Members confirmed that the installation of a portaloo on Petersfield was not to be taken up and had been a suggestion made to relieve the nuisance of vagrants using the Petersfield Park as a toilet.</p> <p>Councillor Smart said that the Council's Strategy Scrutiny Committee was to consider a report on the options available for controlling anti-social behaviour associated with street drinking in accordance with advice from the Council's solicitors.</p> <p>Members acknowledged that any action taken by the Council would have to be balanced by continued support for the victims of addiction. The Chair said the Labour Group favoured a different approach to a public drinking ban already adopted by other authorities and mentioned by some of the members of the public, which covered the whole city rather than specified areas.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that it would be possible for members to petition an earlier Special meeting of the Council to consider the approach it would take.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to take what action it could to bring the matter to the City Council at a meeting to be convened as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Councillors to petition for an early meeting of the</p>
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		Council.
	Provision of a pedestrian crossing from Vinery Road towards St Phillips School and refurbished signage.	
	The residents and parents using St Phillips had previously petitioned for a pedestrian crossing in the area. Members discussed the possibility of financing the crossing or a possible alternative from the County Council's Safe Routes to School budget.	Officers to refer matter to Street Scene Dept
	Swimming Pool – Privatisation of Management Contract	
	A member of the public said that he was concerned about the deterioration of service following the change in management of the Swimming Pools had been marked and was to be regretted.	Cllr Bradnack to pursue the matter.
	Charging for the use of public conveniences	
	The inconsistency of considering proposals for providing a portaloos on Petersfield Park at considerable expense (see above) with charging 20p for use of the refurbished conveniences in Mill Road	Cllr Bradnack to pursue the matter of charging
03/04	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	<p>Cllrs Smart declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 1 C/03/0648/FP as her garden backed on to the site; the application was one of those that was adjourned to the meeting on 18 November.</p> <p>Cllrs Blencowe and Durrant declared personal interests in relation to Planning Application C/03/891 & 0893/FP as former students at the predecessor to the Anglia Polytechnic University</p> <p>Cllr Durrant declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to Planning Application C/03/0978/FP as he had been employed by and was a friend of the applicant. During its consideration he left the Committee and took no part in discussion and did not vote. Cllr Blencowe took the Chair for the item.</p> <p>Cllrs Durant and R Smith declared personal interests in relation to the report on Community Development and Leisure Grants 2004/05 as members of the Management Committee of East Barnwell Community Centre</p>	
03/05	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AREA GRANTS – APPLICATION AND CRITERIA FOR AWARDDING GRANTS	
	The Committee noted that the funding would be available to non-constituted groups. The amount of funding was to be confirmed	

	<p>during the January/February Committee cycle. It was estimated that the amount available to this committee to allocate would be in the region of £17,000. The Chair queried whether the grants could be allocated in one tranche rather than divided over two.</p> <p>Resolved - That proposals for 2004-05 area grants be agreed as stated in the report, except for the allocation of grants (under 3.8) which would be agreed by the Chair and spokesperson.</p>	Chris Freeman 01223 457862
03/06	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS PROGRAMME</p> <p>The Environmental Projects Manager (Andy Thompson) advised the Committee that a list of other sources of available funding (eg covering s106 agreements) would be reported at its next meeting (18 December). A revised table of schemes to be considered was circulated.</p> <p>Resolved –</p> <p>That in view of the small amount of funding available any decision be deferred to the next meeting when other funding would be known.</p>	Andy Thompson 01223 457131
03/07	<p>APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION</p> <p>At the beginning of the debate of this item Councillors Bagnall, Bradnack, Callaghan and Benstead said that they would not be taking part in the determination of planning applications as it would inhibit their ability to represent residents in their wards. They also felt that they lacked expertise in planning matters and that the members of the Planning Committee had acquired such expertise and were the proper body to consider applications. These members withdrew from participation in the Committee, and sat with the public.</p> <p>The Chair said that he was aware that a number of applications would not be determined during the evening and that a provisional date had been set aside for consideration of all those applications which would not be considered. He apologised to members of the public for any inconvenience.</p> <p>The Committee noted that: An amendment sheet had been circulated to members of the Committee prior to the meeting and made available to the public attending the meeting,</p> <p>Applications 16 & 17 relating to the Helmore Building, Anglia Polytechnic University, East Road had been withdrawn.</p>	

	<p>10 Application No: 03/0961/FP Site: 171 Coleridge Road Proposal: Change of Use from residential dwelling house to 6 bedroom bed and breakfast accommodation Applicant: Mr and Mrs C Blackburn PSR - Approved: (8 votes to 0) subject to conditions and informatives set out in the officers' report.</p>	
	<p>9 Application No: 03/0963/FP Site: 21 Devonshire Road Proposal: Erection of two storey side and rear extension and erection of a rear roof extension Applicant: Mr and Mrs Watts PSR: Mrs J Watts, applicant Approved (against officer recommendation: (8 votes to 0) subject to conditions and informatives to be drawn up by the Head of Development Control Services in consultation with the Chair and Spokesperson.</p>	
	<p>7 Application No: 03/0978/FP Site: Gonville Hotel, Gonville Place Proposal: Installation of air conditioning water chiller following application Ref: C/00/0319/FP Applicant: Gonville Hotel Ltd PSR: Mrs G LaFontisee Refused (against officer recommendation: (7 votes to 0) for reasons to be drawn up by the Head of Development Control Services in consultation with the Chair and Spokesperson and based on the effect on the neighbours and amenities of local residents.</p>	
03/08	ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING	
	The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10.05pm. The remainder of the planning applications would be considered at a meeting of the Committee on 18 November.	